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First in Armenia
LEED Certification and Earth Designation
Awarded to Avedisian School
(Story Page 4)



AMAA NEWS

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The Author and Perfecter of Our Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. Hebrews 11:1-2

By **Nazareth E. Darakjian, M.D.**, AMAA President

Faith is the cornerstone of our spiritual life and the basis of all our actions and motivations. The author of the letter to the Hebrews devotes the entirety of Chapter 11 to the forefathers of the Hebrews, starting with Abel to Noah, then Abraham and all the way down to Samuel and David, illustrating how they built their lives on an unshakeable faith in God, and were able to do their part in changing history and carrying forward and bringing to fruition God's plan of salvation to humanity.

The apostle emphatically stresses the link between faith and martyrdom. Abel was the first in this lineup of men of faith, and he was also the first martyr for his strong faith in God, and for the love and gratitude that he felt for God. In the latter part of Hebrews Chapter 11 the apostle describes in detail all the horrors that people of faith experienced. This passage is frequently read when we Armenians commemorate the Genocide that befell our nation in the early part of the twentieth century, because it is so prophetic of what was to happen in Anatolia almost twenty centuries after the writing of the book of Hebrews. Our compatriots were martyred for their faith just like the apostle and the Christians of his time.

The apostle also talks about a "promise" that our Old Testament heroes did not receive and that came through only with the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, the "author and perfecter of our faith," and who by His death on the cross and glorious resurrection brought salvation to all those who have faith in God.

Today we can join the apostle in saying that it was by faith that our forefathers met in Worcester, Massachusetts, 100 years ago and founded the Armenian Missionary Association of America whose mission has been to keep the faith alive and to disseminate the Good News of the Gospel. It was by faith that the organization spread its activities in 24 countries including Armenia and Artsakh to help the victims of earthquake and war, to help educate the young and care for the infants and elderly.

It is with faith and hope that the AMAA continues its efforts to plan for the next century, to create a better future for our new generation anchored in faith and surrounded by love and peace.

In this season of gift giving and receiving let us accept God's promise as we celebrate the birth of our savior who came to teach us faith and how to perfect it. Let us also remember that our faith puts on us a responsibility to reach out to all those who need help and who have not yet received God's promise. □





First in Armenia LEED Certification and Earth Designation

Awarded to AMAA’s Avedisian School in Yerevan, Armenia

By Jane Wenning

The Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center, located in the Malatia-Sebastia District of Yerevan, Armenia and operated by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), has been awarded a Silver LEED Certification - the FIRST building in the Republic of Armenia to

achieve such an award. The School was also awarded the LEED Earth Designation, given only to the very FIRST building project in each developing country to satisfy the USGBC LEED criteria. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is an ecology-oriented building certification program run under the sponsorship of the United

States Green Building Council (USGBC), headquartered in Washington, DC. According to Mahesh Ramanujam, President and CEO of the USGBC, "the LEED Certification identifies the AMAA Avedisian School as a showcase example of sustainability and demonstrates the AMAA’s leadership in transforming the building industry. The USGBC congratulates the AMAA Avedisian

School on earning the LEED Certification and thanks you for your commitment to our common goal of building a healthy, sustainable future." The Avedisian School was founded in 1998 as a tuition free Kindergarten for students from economically disadvantaged homes. The new K-12 School complex includes a Community Center and the Krikor and Beatrice Bilezikian Building and opened on September 1, 2014. It was the dream of AMAA Benefactor and Board Member Edward Avedisian of Lexington, MA to build a school to honor his Genocide survivor parents, Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian, who had placed an extremely high value on education throughout their lives. The School, with a current enrollment of 552 students and 50 Kindergarten students, provides a free education for economically disadvantaged children from the Malatia-Sebastia District. It is operated by the AMAA and conforms to the standard of education as set forth by the Armenian Ministry of Education.

"The idea of the Avedisian School and Community Center came from the American and German Missionaries working in Western Armenia who provided free tuition and board for students during the mid-19th and 20th centuries," said Mr. Avedisian. "My mother was one of those fortunate enough to receive this education. We decided to bring that same concept to the present but with an ultra-modern building based on sustainable energy in the Yerevan Valley where pollution was out of control and high incidences of cancer had been noted for many years. After being invited to a meeting with the United Nations Development Program in New York, our sustainable energy expert, Armen Gharibyan, and I were provided funding to visit the new UN European Headquarters Building in Copenhagen to see if we could get some new ideas from their massive ecological masterpiece. As it turned out, Armen knew at least as much as their experts and we returned to Yerevan with renewed confidence in the project. Today, the Avedisian School’s new approach to building using sustainable energy has captivated both the government and the public so much so that an entire industry is growing rapidly and providing many good paying jobs for those working in the industry. What started as a small step to the future, combined with over 300 sunny days a year in Armenia, provides the catalyst for Armenia to achieve over 50% of its energy needs in the next ten years. That, I am confident, will be another first in the world. A major benefit will be a great reduction in cancer rates since the CO² reduction will provide for much reduced pollution. Add to that the joy of seeing Ararat for most of the daylight hours will make my day and yours for sure."

Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D., former President of the AMAA Board of Directors during the building of the Avedisian School in 2014, said, "It is gratifying to see the Avedisian School gaining honors in the Motherland. The School has met and exceeded the hopes and dreams of its founders and the Board of the AMAA that endorsed its establishment."

The Avedisian School’s building team included Senior Technical Advisor/ Architect Ronald Altoon, Architect Isahak Nersisyan, Construction Manager Faraj Yeretsian, LEED Consultant/Solar Energy Design and Implementation Consultant Dr. Armen Gharibyan, LEED Consultant AJB Inc., Conservation Advisor Dr. Kenell Touryan, AMAA, LEED and USGBC Liaison Richard Youatt and Legal Counsels

Peter Kougasian, Esq. and Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq.

"From start to finish, this was a concerted team effort," said Mr. Altoon. "Every role was essential, every challenge met head on. Armenia, under the Soviet system, was unaccustomed to addressing environmental or sustainable design issues so we were faced with many challenges. When Mr. Avedisian approached me about working on this project, I suggested that we accept the challenge to design the School to become LEED Certified. This was not an easy task to be sure. Mr. Avedisian became the champion of the LEED Certification goal. He advocated for this to the AMAA Board and sustained his commitment throughout the process. After our very challenging LEED journey, we have fulfilled our original vision. Not only have we achieved LEED Silver, but also LEED Earth."

"The LEED Certification shows how the Avedisian School fits into the global sustainability movement and how the AMAA is an important innovator and leader not only within Armenia but within the region and globally," said Mr. Youatt. "Mr. Avedisian played a very important role in the transformation from the immediate post-Soviet era to the present. His broad vision for rebuilding Armenia’s entire educational system and his early focus on LEED Certification were visionary at a time when Yerevan was ‘on its knees’ with water and energy shortages."

The School’s construction process introduced a new construction culture in Armenia by keeping all of the local and international environmental laws and standards. The School achieved LEED credits for meeting requirements of applying efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, introducing a unique system of solar hot water, using proper polyurethane thermal insulation levels, applying efficient LED lighting and a proper architectural design with correctly selected windows and walls. The School also used light colors on the roof, developed lots of green areas around the School which reflect the solar irradiation as nature, installed rainfall collection areas underground, recycled concrete waste to make concrete tiles, and used environmentally friendly materials for finishing, indoor air quality and natural lighting.

"The Avedisian School is a source of great pride for the AMAA in Armenia for many reasons," said Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of the AMAA’s Board of Directors.

"The standard of education is very high in comparison to other schools in the area and the School provides an education tuition free in an area that houses families with modest means. Almost all of the graduates have pursued higher education in the local colleges and universities. At the same time, the Avedisian School building serves as a lesson to Armenia's architects and designers on how to build a structure that is beautiful and yet efficient in the use of energy and natural resources. This is of utmost strategic importance for a country that must import sources of energy from other countries. Our congratulations and special thanks to Ed Avedisian and Ron Altoon for this accomplishment."

Funding for the LEED Certification process was generously provided to the AMAA by the John Mirak Foundation of Massachusetts. The Mirak family's Foundation has committed to preserving Armenia by funding organizations that focus on issues surrounding the environment, the welfare of children, autism, poverty reduction and education at all levels.

"When we were approached by Ed to help fund the new School, he gave us several naming opportunities," said Julia Mirak, Trustee of the John Mirak Foundation. "Many of them involved funding infrastructure or playing fields, but

energy conservation, pollution control and environmental education and responsibility."

The Armenia Tree Project (ATP), an organization headquartered in Watertown, MA that has been working to protect Armenia's environment since 1994, also collaborated on the environmental education curriculum at the Avedisian School which helped secure the LEED Certification.



One of the School's projects, funded by the ATP, has been the green roof gardens which feature grasses, trees and vegetables planted atop the building which provide insulation, lower heating and cooling costs. It is also used as a hands-on teaching tool for conservation as the students help care for the plants and observe their growth.

environmental education from the Armenia Tree Project and was incorporating it into her lessons. When I was an AMAA Board member, I was involved with plans for the new campus and we had many discussions on how to develop a green school. The building itself is a huge component – it had to be environmentally friendly of course, but Mr. Avedisian and Principal Geghamyan also felt that the students should be engaged in learning to preserve and protect the environment.

Today, five years after the new campus opened its doors, we can observe that it truly is a green school. More than 400 trees and shrubs surround the campus, many planted by the students with support from the ATP. Students plant and care for vegetables on one of the School's green roof areas. They also create compost from cafeteria scraps, recycle paper, and compete to see who can make the most creative art from discarded items. The ATP recognizes the Avedisian School

as a prominent partner school – whenever ATP wants to pilot a new program or project in its environmental education curriculum, Principal Geghamyan welcomes our educators. And, it is great fun for students to visit ATP's nursery in Karin Village and plant trees each spring. It is fitting that the Avedisian School has received the first LEED Certification in the region. It sets the example for how schools can help develop the next generation of environmental stewards. Congratulations to the team who made this certification happen. I am proud to be associated with such a fine institution."

"The United Nations Development Committee (UNDP) was also impressed by the Avedisian School," added Mr. Youatt. "A site visit by a UNDP representative during the School's construction and a meeting with Mr. Avedisian left the representative with a very positive impression of the visionary, yet practical, energy efficient design of the Avedisian School. The UNDP subsequently provided some material support for the construction and saw the project as inspirational for other countries and cities addressing similar challenges as those faced by the School."

The students at the Avedisian School have greatly benefitted from the healthy and sustainable environment at the



School, where they attend classes in math, language, science, geography, computers, art, music, crafts and physical education. They have excelled in many areas helping the School win many awards, including national chess and debate competitions. The School has also won several prestigious awards including 1st place in Nationwide Russian Language Competency, 1st place in Nationwide French Competency and a Gold Medal for Best School Administration. Since 2015 the Avedisian School has had 62 students graduate from the high school. This year all of the 31 graduates have been admitted to higher educational establishments including American University of Armenia, French University of Armenia Foundation, University of Foreign Languages, Pedagogical University of Armenia, Engineering University of Armenia, Armenian State University of Economics, Armenian Medical University, Armenian Conservatoire, Yerevan State University and Russian-Slavonic University.

"The Avedisian School has also benefited from the LEED Certification in terms of being the most unique environmentally friendly building not only in Armenia but also in the whole South Caucasus Region," said Melanya Geghamyan, Principal of the Avedisian School.

"The whole building is an environmental laboratory. The students have been taught how to differentiate between litter and recyclables, classify garbage into special bins for paper, plastic and litter, how to save water, and plant and care for trees and plants due to the green roofs. Because of the LEED Certification and the Eco Project implemented at School, the students learn about composting and how significant it is to take advantage of enriching the soil with the principle of 'zero waste.'"

AMAA-Armenia Representative Harout Nercessian added that "as a Christian organization, the AMAA cares deeply about the environment and protecting God's land and resources. The Avedisian School and Community Center educates our students about environmental issues both academi-

cally and practically and encourages them to adopt eco-friendly habits and promote them among their families and friends. The AMAA's trailblazing efforts at the Avedisian School have helped promote environmental awareness among the students and serves as an inspirational model to other schools and organizations throughout Armenia."

"The AMAA salutes the pioneering insight of a remarkable group of project owners and professionals who rose above the cost and construction considerations to be the good stewards of the Creator in securing the LEED Certification and the LEED Earth Designation for the Avedisian School," said Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA. "We have been entrusted with the welfare of our planet. The Benefactors, the AMAA Board and Administration and the faculty and students of the Avedisian School are taking good care of Armenia's ecology while they toil to provide an environmentally sustainable Homeland for the enjoyment of generations to come." □

"We have been entrusted with the welfare of our planet. The Benefactors, the AMAA Board and Administration and the faculty and students of Avedisian School are taking good care of Armenia's ecology while they toil to provide an environmentally sustainable Homeland for the enjoyment of generations to come."

Zaven Khanjian

the idea of funding the LEED Certification process was immediately attractive to us. Not only would it help the current students and faculty by providing a more inviting atmosphere in which to learn and teach, but the systems that were being proposed would enhance the neighborhood for generations to come. Our family is proud to have been able to help make the School a beacon in Armenia for sustainability,

"My first visit to the Avedisian School was in 2009 when I visited the old campus in Malatia-Sepastia," said Ms. Papelian, ATP Executive Director. "Despite the challenges posed by the unfortunate state of the building, Avedisian School Principal Melanya Geghamyan ensured that the students excelled in every area. I also learned on that trip that one of the School's science teachers had received training on



International Conference

"The Rescue of Armenians in the Middle East 1915-1923"

The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI) organized a two-day International Conference, sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), and with support of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. The Conference, which was titled, "The Rescue of Armenians in the Middle East 1915-1923," was held from November 8 to 9 in Yerevan and Holy Etchmiadzin.

The Conference officially opened at the AGMI Conference Hall. Father Asoghik Karapetyan, a Representative of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and Director of Museums and Archives, conveyed greetings from His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians. "We should always raise the question that humanity and self-sacrifice have been a guiding principle for Armenians in our lives today and at all times as an important assurance of national

existence. Although our people have been brutally massacred in their Homeland, they were able with their unique ability of resurrection to continue to create and to build, and the role of the devotees is great in that process."

In his remarks, AGMI Director Harutyun Marutyan mentioned that the idea of this Conference was born out of a bilateral collaboration between the AGMI and the AMAA. "The purpose of this Conference

is to present the fate of those displaced due to the Armenian Genocide, and to highlight the activities of Armenian and international organizations and individuals who played a great role of rescuing Armenian refugees, particularly children and women.

"Why in 2019?" questioned Mr. Marutyan. "Because exactly 100 years ago the 'One Armenian, One Gold' movement started, when thousands of Armenian



Harutyun Marutyan.

orphans were in captivity and on the brink of Islamization. Armenian intellectuals realized that the future of the Armenian nation is greatly dependent on these orphans and they need to do everything possible to save these children who will become the citizens of tomorrow's Armenia."

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian welcomed Conference participants with a video message where he said: "It is the irony of history that we are experiencing today. While we are here at the opening of this Conference, for the last seven years we have been witnessing new atrocities in Syria by the same brutal power whose victims today are the progeny of those rescued in the post Genocide era. The perpetrator and the crime have not rested. It is necessary to be watchful and to expect evil. Therefore, as a nation we must be ready for the task of salvage."

Samvel Karabekyan, Advisor to the RA Ministry of Education and Science, and Raymond Harutyun Kevorkyan, Chairman of the AGMI Foundation Board of Trustees, also welcomed participants to the Conference.

On the first day of the Conference, the Exhibition titled "From National Unity to Revival," exclusively featured Armenian contributions to the salvation of Genocide survivors. AGMI Academic Secretary Dr. Narine Margaryan considered this Exhibition unique and the success of various operations organized for the rescue of Armenian orphans was conditioned by their national and ideological unity. "In this work there were apostles, men who clearly understood the seriousness of the moment and were steadfast in their work. Some came in the form of donations, others gathered Armenians from the wilderness, and others took care of them in orphanages," she said inviting the audience to be acquainted with the materials about these people and organizations.

Other themes throughout the Exhibition included the activities of Armenian religious institutions and other organizations – the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian National Union, Armenian Orphans Care of Egypt, Armenian Organization of Mesopotamia, Armenian Red Cross, the works of Armenian Evangelicals and Catholics, as well as orphanages from the governments of the Republic of Armenian and the Armenian SSR. The Exhibition also included unique archival materials, such as documents, photos and exhibits mainly from



Dr. Narine Margaryan.

the collections of the AGMI, and collections from the National Archives of Armenia, Yerevan History Museum and AGMI staff member Mihran Minasyan. Orphanage memories, which included photos, migration routes, orphanage items and handiwork items from the orphans, which until now were never seen, proved very interesting to those in attendance .

Director of the Armenian Studies Program in Modern and Classical Languages and Literature at the University of California, Northridge Dr. Vahram Shemmashian delivered a report about the pro-Armenian activities of Rev. Aharon Shirajian who forcibly rescued kidnapped Armenian women and children in Syria during the Armenian Genocide. Rev. Shirajian had been the Superintendent of the Karen Ephesus Shelter of Britain's Friends of Armenian Organization and he continued the work of that organization beginning in 1922. Until 1933, Rev. Shirajian and his wife assisted women and girls who survived the massacres. As time and circumstances dictated, they gave the orphaned children new names, opened a school for them to learn languages, receive religious education and be re-Armenianized. They also took great responsibility to help the girls get married. They carefully chose suitable mates for them to form happy families and have good Armenian children.

The theme of AGMI Academic Secretary Dr. Narine Margaryan's presentation was "The Armenian Orphanage in Aleppo from 1915 to 1924."

Dr. Margaryan presented the history of the Armenian Orphanage, launched in July 1915, and the role of the institution in rescuing orphans. She detailed the activities

of the Orphanage in the areas of education, health, finance, artisanship, caregiving, as well as the issues the Orphanage faced and how they were resolved. Dr. Margaryan also touched upon the regional political events of this period which had a direct impact on the Orphanage.

"The Armenian Orphanage in Aleppo started its activities on July 31, 1915 under the leadership of Rev. Aharon Shirajian who was born in Marash. He received his education at Central Turkey College in Aintab and attended the Marash Theological Seminary. In 1912 he went to Edinburgh to continue his theological studies. He witnessed the brutal politics of the Hamidian, Young Turk and Kemalist periods. He came to Aleppo after he was deported from Marash, where he founded the Orphanage. This was the period when the Ottoman Empire consistently pursued the policy of exterminating the Armenians. Doctor Assadour Altounian and his daughter, Nora Altounian, played an important role in the establishment of the Orphanage. They used their personal connections and tried to solve the health and wellbeing issues of the orphans."

Director of the Center for Armenian Diaspora Studies of Haigazian University of Beirut Dr. Anrang Dakessian's theme was "Navigation Between Dreams, Competing Postures, and New Life: HAYASDANI GOCHNAG 1919-1923."

In January 1919, the 20-year-old GOCHNAG was renamed HAYASDANI GOCHNIAG. This renaming was related to the mission of the proclamation of the Republic of Armenia, the belief in the emergence of a new Armenia, and the mission of the newspaper to summon Armenian pilgrims to Armenia. The articles, reports and call for Armenian national sentiments published in

HAYASDANI GOCHNAG gave their results. As a way of public advice, the GOCHNAG's mission was to inspire Armenians with new vigor, new faith and dreams. In his report, Dr. Dakessian summarized editorials from the 1919 GOCHNAGS (over 150 editorials) and their main opinions.

Following the first session of the Conference, participants visited the Armenian Genocide Monument of Dzidzernagapert and laid flowers near the eternal flames.

The second day of the Conference was held at the KAREKIN I Educational Center of Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Twenty-three scholars from Armenia, France, Germany, Lebanon and the United States addressed details of the rescue missions for those who survived the Genocide.

Researcher at Yerevan State University, Genocide Scholar Dr. Hilmar Kaiser's report, "Religious Activities of the Protestants in the Ottoman Fourth Army from 1915 to 1917," touched upon Evangelical figures such as Koundakjian, Mhudian, Haidostian, and Revs. Eskidjian and Shirajian, who undertook the task of rescuing those displaced by the Armenian Genocide in Hama and Aleppo. During these rescue missions, Evangelicals also suffered casualties.

Dr. Kaiser particularly remembered Araksya Jebejian and Beatrice Royer and was the only reporter who also touched upon Turkish individuals who opposed the massacres and helped the displaced. In particular, he presented the charitable actions and assistance provided to Armenians by the Ottoman Fourth Army. He told a noteworthy story of an Ottoman person who oversaw one of Aintab's shelters. At the beginning of World War I, he expressed a desire to become a Christian and after the end of the War, he left the Army and Turkey with an

Armenian woman and eventually lived in Syria in an Evangelical community.

Other participants of the Conference also presented the fates of the displaced, as a result of the Armenian Genocide, highlighting activities of additional Armenian and international organizations and individuals involved in the rescue mission of Armenian refugees, children and women.

At the conclusion of the Conference, Director of the AGMI Foundation Harutyun Marutyan summarized the work done and highly appreciated the fact that "if until now we have always emphasized the role of the foreigners in the rescue mission of the Armenians, this two-day Conference emphasized the role of Armenians in the rescue mission. Moreover, these Armenians were both individuals and large and small organizations, which in today's terminology have taken on the role of the Ministry of Refugees and have accomplished great organizational work."

The Conference also revealed many issues that still need to be researched. "The second century of the Armenian Genocide Study is commencing, and old questions require new answers. There are also new questions that require timely answers," said Mr. Marutyan. He also mentioned that three international conferences and two exhibitions are planned for next year. "I would like to thank the AMAA and in particular Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin for their support of this two-day Conference" said Mr. Marutyan, who expressed hope that they would be ready to support their further plans. □

*AMAA-Armenia Press
(Translated from Armenian into English by
Louisa Janbazian)*



Dr. Vahram Shemmassian.



Dr. Antranig Dakessian.



Dr. Hilmar Kaiser.



AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian video message at the AGMI Conference

Your Excellency Minister of Culture,
Your Eminences,
Honorable Director of Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute,
Honorable President of All-Armenia Fund,
Honorable Speakers of the Conference,
Dear Guests,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and our extended Missionary family serving in 24 countries around the world, I welcome you this morning. I congratulate this International Conference initiated and organized by the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI) titled "The Rescue of Armenians in the Middle East, 1915-1923." I thank the Institute's Academic Secretary for the diligent work in organizing it and to all the speakers who will take part in this two-day Conference, I wish great success.

This historic Conference, and generally any historic research or study, tends to pursue two major goals. First, the revelation of the truth and second, the benefits associated with this revelation as it pertains to the present.

Please allow me to share a few thoughts with you.

A It is the irony of history that we are experiencing today. While we are here at the opening of this Conference, for the last seven years we have been witnessing in Syria new atrocities by the same brutal power whose victims today are the progeny of those rescued in the post Genocide era.

B It is necessary to shed light on the fact that the burden of the initiation, salvation and miracle of this sacred and wonderful work of rescuing the remnants of the Armenian Genocide from the genesis of the crime until the end of World War I, belong to a few children of our nation who have often stayed in the shadow. Among them are a small group of selfless and dedicated Armenian Evangelical Pastors, namely Rev. Aharon Shirajian and Rev. Hovhannes Eskidjian.

C If the remnants of our people on the Eastern Front, secured salvation through armed resistance and martyrdom, on the other hand in the Syrian deserts, on the streets of Aleppo, Hama, and Damascus, and on the hills of Horan, salvation was secured through peaceful, selfless and Christian sacrifice.

D As representatives of a race, subjected to the cruelest of crimes, our academicians, historians, and many simple individuals have studied pain, martyrdom, crucifixion, and the boundless loss of our native land, property and life. It is only fair to give credence and bring under spotlight, life, salvation, renaissance and our collective resurrection on the Near Eastern Front.

E The perpetrator and the crime have not rested. Consequently, it is necessary to be watchful and expect evil to continue. As a nation we must be ready to rescue and save. Today, in view of the uncharted expulsion and migration of the past seven years that our Mother Diaspora community of Syria has been subjected to, it is a delight to see Lebanese-Armenians, silently and consciously migrate to Armenia.

F We are eternally grateful to all the non-Armenian Good Samaritans who performed miracles in the endeavor of the salvation of our remnants. Yet, let us not forget ours.

G Lastly, awakened by the limelight shed by this Conference, let us remind authorities in the Homeland that these heroes need to be deservedly and properly honored, and their graceful memory perpetuated, realizing that many of us today are alive as a result of the sacrifice of these heroes.

I wholeheartedly wish you all much success with this unique Conference, once again congratulating the organizers led by the Academic Secretary Dr. Narine Margaryan.

Thank You!

Strange Glory

You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different! Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10: 42-45

By Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian*

This is Jesus' criticism of the leadership and power structures of His day. The disciples have lived for too long in these systems and have come to embody the way of the world. Jesus will not allow it. The disciples aim at glory, but Jesus gives them service. The twelve clamor for prestige and positions of power, but Jesus invites them into the life of the servant.

In God's Kingdom, glory is not defined by power or public honor. Glory is not pure, unchecked, authority or prestige. Rather, in God's Kingdom, glory is measured by one's basic capacity and willingness to serve with Jesus the Master.

Glory, in Jesus' eyes, is seen in the simple act of giving one's self over to another — pouring into someone else and ministering to their needs. Other-centered servant-love, *that* is God's glorious way.

And it is that glorious way of Jesus that unmasks the world's broken visions for life and thriving. God's servant-love overcomes the disarray of our frantic grab for glory. We've made the world an arena of power struggles and violence — lording ourselves over others for our own self gain. We've been possessed by a spirit of mindless taking that grasps for what is good in our own eyes at the cost of "the other."

"Not so among you," says Jesus, "for even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus is at work in the world in a very different way. He frees us from the destructive way of taking and offers us the healing life of servanthood. Servant-love even at the cost of His own life is the way in which God chooses to heal and redeem His creation and it is the way in which those who follow Him will join. They will participate with Him in the healing redemption of all things!

Those who embrace Jesus' mission and identity embrace their own mission and identity as servants alongside Him. As we become His followers, we set aside the broken pursuit of glory and instead cling to the life-giving servant-love of Jesus.

The world may pursue these broken visions of glory, they may crave authority and prestige at the cost of others, *but it shall not be so among you!*

The followers of Jesus' way learn to reject that violent, worldly way, and that vision of mindless taking is put to death as we embrace and embody the cruciform life of Jesus in the world. In God's Kingdom, service is glorious — and it's powerful! For it bears witness to the Spirit of Jesus Christ which has overcome the world.

The way the important, powerful work of God's Kingdom breaks into the world is through a community of men, women and children who embrace Jesus in His way of tenacious servant-love. For this love brings life! It makes whole what is broken and restores what is seemingly ruined!

And whoever you are, wherever you are — you can take on the way of Jesus. You can take on the other-centered servant-love of the King!

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said in his famous sermon *The Drum Major Instinct*:

"Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. [...] You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant."

Whoever you are, you can serve! So, let us continue together in service to God and our neighbor. Equip one another. Serve one another. Encourage others to join in this rich difficult mystery of discipleship; and follow closely this King Jesus who demonstrates His power and glory by pouring out His life unto death — giving His life as the liberating, freeing ransom for others. □

*Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian is the Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and the Senior Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Greater Chicago. This Inspirational Corner is an excerpt of the English Message he preached at the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA during the AMAA's 100th Annual Meeting Worship Service on Sunday, October 20, 2019.



Meet Our Veteran Pastors

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian



Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian is the Minister Emeritus of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit and the Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council. Born in Kessab, Syria, Rev. Dr. Tootikian received his early education at the Armenian Evangelical Schools in his hometown, and his secondary education at Central High School in Beirut, Lebanon. He received his college and seminary education at the American University of Beirut and the Near East School of Theology, where in 1959 he was awarded both a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Diploma in Theology degree with honors. He did his graduate work at Hartford, Harvard and Andover Newton Theological seminaries, earning two masters and a doctorate.

Since 1959, he has served the Armenian Evangelical Church in many capacities. From 1959-1960, he was Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Damascus, Syria and Principal of the local school; from 1960-1965, he was Minister of the Armenian Evangelical Congregational Church of Cairo, Egypt; from 1965-1975, he was Minister of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA; and from 1975-2005 he was Minister of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, MI.

Along with his pastoral calling, Rev. Dr. Tootikian was engaged in educational work. He was a lecturer at Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, MI from 1975-2005, and lectured at the University of Michigan from 1985-1989. His courses included: *The Bible as Literature* (Old and New Testament), *History of Christian Thought*, *World Religions*, *Contemporary Christian Thought*, *Ethics and Western Armenian*.

Minister, lecturer, administrator, scholar, prolific writer, and community leader, Rev. Dr. Tootikian is a member of many religious, educational, and philanthropic organizations, and a recipient of numerous awards. He was a member of the American Association of University Professors. He was elected to membership in the *Community Leaders in America* for high quality of leadership; and membership in the *International Platform Association*, where he was also awarded the title of "The Man of Achievement." He is also the recipient of a

Gold Medal from Armenia's Ministry of Diaspora for his many contributions to the Armenian Cultural Heritage.

In recognition of his pastoral and public service, his church and the Armenian community have celebrated his 25th, 35th, 40th, 45th, and 60th Anniversaries, each time establishing an Endowment Fund in his honor at the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit, the AMAA and the AEUNA.

Rev. Dr. Tootikian was a charter member of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) in 1971, and the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) in 1978. He was elected Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America four times (1974-76, 1986-88, 1998-2000, and 2000-2002). He also served as Secretary (1986-87) and President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (1989-91 and 2000-2002). Since January 2003, he has held the post of Executive Director of the AEWC. He began serving the AMAA Board in 1967 and since then has been on the Board intermittently over 52 years, either as an elected or ex-officio member.

Scholarship is another aspect of Rev. Dr. Tootikian's many-faceted activities, and it is a significant one. He is a regular contributor to several papers and magazines, and the author of 43 books, six of which have been used as college textbooks in North America and overseas.

Rev. Dr. Tootikian was married to the late Juliette Nazarian in 1959 and was blessed with three daughters. Upon the untimely death of Yeretzgin Juliette in 1985, he married Rosette Pambakian in 1991. They presently live in Royal Oak, MI and are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren and a great grandson.

Rev. Dr. Tootikian is a man of many talents; he is esteemed for his visionary leadership, his scholarly productions, and his performance in teaching, preaching and pastoral vocation, and as a warm and personable clergyman.

(Excerpted from the 60th Anniversary Testimonial Committee Presentation).



Armenian Evangelical Church of Moscow

The Armenian Christian Evangelical Church of Moscow was established on May 5, 2002. The Lord blessed and set the first pillars of the Church – Brothers Garbis Topchyan, Arman Badalyan and Masis Akopyan. Since its establishment, the Church has grown having Jesus Christ always at its center.

The Lord called Brother Akopyan to the pastoral service. He faithfully and devotedly has performed his duties as the Minister of the Church for the last seventeen years.

In the beginning, the Church met in the Tushino Evangelical Church (2002-2004). Later it moved to the "Christian Center" (2004-2013) and in recent years the worship services were held on Shelepikhinskaya embankment and Mukomol'ny passage (2014-August 2019). Currently the Church is located near the metro Shosse Enthusiast. The Church is grateful to the Lord for all these locations and believes and expects that one day the Lord will grant them their own premises – a house of prayer.

In 2009, another Armenian Evangelical Church – "Family of Christ," which had been operating in Moscow since 1993, joined the Church. Together with this Church, one big Family was formed – the Armenian Evangelical Church of Moscow. Soon after Pastor Akopyan



Rev. Masis Akopyan, Pastor of Armenian Evangelical Church of Moscow.

was ordained, officiated by three Unions: The Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Eurasia (President Rev. Dr. René Léonian), all-Union Commonwealth Evangelical Christian (President Rev. Leonid Kartavenko) and the Council of Christian Evangelical Churches of Russia (President Rev. Alexander Fedichkin). The Armenian Evangelical Church of Moscow is a member of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches of Eurasia.

The Moscow Church holds Sunday Worship Services, where about 70 people gather every Sunday. The Church also has several other ministries such as:

Small Groups Ministry that serves in six different areas in Moscow and conducts in-depth Bible studies. About ten people participate in each Study Group.

Services in Regions: The Church gives a special place to missionary service in different regions of Russia among Armenians and Armenian speakers, such as Yazidis. They serve in five suburbs in Moscow: Taldom district (100 km from Moscow), Kursk region (650 km from Moscow), Lipetsk region (450 km from Moscow), Ryazan region (250 km from Moscow),

and Vladimir region (400 km from Moscow). In all these regions, the Church holds services and fellowships to strengthen home groups and home churches in the regions.

Skype service: The Church utilizes modern technologies and opportunities. In particular, the Church uses a Skype connection to conduct service on-line. The Skype services are attended not only by members of the Moscow Church, but also by numerous participants from different cities and countries around the world.

Brotherly services are held once a month and aim to strengthen the relationship between brothers and most importantly to develop a relationship with God.

Women's services are held once a month. The service raises topics that interest the women and are practical.

Children's ministry: The Church gives a special place to the children's ministry, held weekly during the Sunday Service. In addition to Biblical themes, children also learn the Armenian language.

Teenage ministry is a regular, weekly service. The Church gives great attention to this ministry, taking into consideration the continent we serve in.

Youth ministry: Youth services are held once a week – every Saturday. During the service they raise issues that interest the young people and help them grow spiritually.

Media ministry: The Church has a YouTube channel where videos, audio programs, sermons of the Pastor, Christian songs and movies are uploaded.

Church conferences: The Church organizes annual Church conferences, youth conferences, women's conferences and fraternal outings.

Children's camp: The Church organized its first children's camp this year, where children received God's abundant blessings and rejoiced in the presence of God.

Charitable service: The church is also engaged in charitable service. Clothing and shoes are collected for the needy in the regions where



The Choir of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Moscow.

it serves. The Church also reaches out to orphanages and hospitals, helping especially sick children.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Moscow is grateful to the AMAA for its continued support and encouragement. □



Rev. Dr. René Léonian, President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches of Eurasia, and Rev. Masis Akopyan.



Sunday School students.



Sunday Worship Service at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Moscow.



L to R: Treasurer Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian, President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian and Recording Secretary Tom Momjian, Esq.

AMAA's 100th Annual Meeting

By Louisa Janbazian

The 100th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was held at the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA on Saturday, October 19, 2019. AMAA President Nazareth Darakjian, M.D. presided over the Meeting. Board member Rev. Ara Guekguezian offered the opening prayer and Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian, President of the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia, offered the closing prayer.

During the Annual Meeting, AMAA Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs, as well as delegates of the Armenian Evangelical Unions, the Armenian Evangelical World Council and affiliated organizations presented their annual reports, shared their joys and concerns and praised God for another successful year.

The general membership of the AMAA elected the following eight members to the Board of Directors Class of 2022 for a term of three years: LindaKay Abdulian, Hrair Steven Aharonian, M.D., Rafi Balabanian, D.D.S., Phyllis Dohanian, Nurhan Helvacian, Ph.D., Rev. Haig Kherlopian, D. Min., Seta Loshkajian Nalbandian and Michael Voskian, D.M.D.

In conjunction with the AMAA Annual Meeting on October 17 and 18, the AMAA Board held a Strategic Planning Session and a Board meeting, and the Armenian Evangelical World Council held its meeting.

On Sunday, October 20, members and guests joined the congregation of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA for Sunday Morning Worship Service. Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Greater Chicago preached in English and Rev. Me-

grditch Karagoezian, President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE), preached in Armenian. A special prayer was offered by Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community of Syria, in memory of AMAA members and friends who made the transition from this life to life eternal during the past fiscal year. Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, Senior Pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA, officiated at the installation of the newly elected members of the AMAA Board of Directors.

At the conclusion of AMAA's 100th Annual Meeting weekend, a special gathering and Commemorative Worship Service was held on Sunday afternoon October 20 at the Armenian Church of the Martyrs, Worcester, MA – the first Armenian Evangelical Church established in the USA in 1892 and the birthplace of the

AMAA in 1918. The Service was led by the Pastor of the Worcester Church Rev. Stephen Carlyle who welcomed the guests and charged them to recommit to Jesus Christ as people of faith from all around the world, and to serve the Lord together in Unity. Messages of Reflections of the past, present and hope for future were delivered by Zaven Khanjian, AMAA

Executive Director/CEO, Rev. Megrdoch Karagoezian, President of UAECNE, and Taline Avakian Borekjian, a member of the Worcester Church. During the Service hymns of praise were sung and special prayers were offered praising God for the past 100 years of faithful service of the AMAA and asking God's guidance for the future.

The AMAA thanks Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, Pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown and its members for hosting its 100th Annual Meeting and for welcoming all with great warmth, hospitality, delicious meals and enthusiasm. May God continue to bless this congregation and their ministry. ☐

REV. DR. RON TOVMASSIAN'S MESSAGE AT THE INSTALLATION OF AMAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.
Nehemiah 1:4

When they asked me to do the installation service for the new AMAA officers and Board members, I thought of the verse above. Nehemiah had gotten a report that people back in his homeland were in trouble and experiencing great need. As a result, he became a middleman of sorts, a conduit for help to flow from the King, through him, to God's people. As leaders of the AMAA, we are in much the same position, hearing of needs that exist throughout the world in communities where Armenians have gathered. We are the middlemen as well, serving as conduits for help to go from the Diaspora, through the AMAA, to our people. Nehemiah gives us a three-point model that we should seriously consider as we gather for this mission.

First of all, like Nehemiah, we need to act out of **Passion**. When he heard what was happening among his people, Nehemiah wept. This passion was so apparent in his demeanor, that the King saw it and was moved to help as well. As leaders of this missionary organization, our work must be done from passion that burns in our hearts for those in need. Our hearts must break for their physical and spiritual needs. Our role is not to cultivate donors, raise money for projects and balance a multi-million-dollar budget. Our role is to act out our compassion in such a way that others will see and be moved to action as well.

The next important step for Nehemiah was **Prayer**. It says that as he felt this passion it caused him to fast and pray for days. As leaders of the AMAA, it is critical to realize that our most important job is not what we do in the boardroom; it is what we do in the privacy of our own homes. When our hearts are so broken for the needs of others, that we fall on our knees to fast and pray, that us when God can begin to use us all for great things. We cannot have a strong AMAA unless each member of the Board has an active spiritual life that is grounded in passionate prayer.

The final factor for Nehemiah was **Preparation**. His passion drove him to prayer and in that context, the King responded naturally to what was happening in him. What a great model for cultivating donors. Without saying one word about material support, Nehemiah shared his compassion for people who are suffering. But when the King asked - "What can I do?" Nehemiah was prepared with an answer. He knew exactly what the King was capable of providing and immediately presented a clear plan that could be executed. The result was a blessing for everyone, Nehemiah's heart was uplifted, the King was overjoyed to help out and relief aid flowed to God's people.

I would encourage you to remember this lesson from Nehemiah. **Passion, Prayer and Preparation** are essential. The work of the AMAA will not be blessed by our hard work, great ideas, extravagant contributions and exceptional abilities. It will be blessed when we surrender all of these things to God with broken and contrite hearts, prayerfully allowing Him to work through us to build up His kingdom and further His mission in the world.





AMAA Executive Director/CEO’s Message at the Centennial Celebratory Worship Service on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at the Armenian Church of the Martyrs in Worcester, MA – the Birthplace of the AMAA.

WHERE WOULD YOU HEAD IN A TIME MACHINE?

If it were possible, where would you head in a time machine?

Science and technology are on an assault on humanity. Advances experienced by man in the past few decades have far exceeded those made over many centuries. The onslaught goes on and the dynamics of what to expect is exponential. I find it difficult to even imagine the uncharted waters mankind is heading toward but the direction is visibly clear.

Despite the excitement of what to expect in the future, my choice of a destination to travel to in a time machine would be the annals of history. From the remarkable engineering genius that built the pyramids to the laid down town squares of Greek intelligentsia; from the lions in Roman arenas mauling Christians professing their faith to the aromatic covered souks of the Middle East displaying early man’s creativity; from the road where the cross was carried to Golgotha to the empty tomb on Easter morning; from the killing fields of the Syrian desert to the plains of Sardarabad where sacrificial resistance was victorious, I want to visit the past.

Who we are and what we are defined by our past. Whatever the interval pace, human development moves in phases. Achievements of the day are built on the foundation of accomplished dreams of the past.

What a proud moment it is to stand at this pulpit today and have a dialogue with a few gallant men from the past. It is a historic moment as we mentally connect with the past, a past of one hundred years and pay tribute to those who somewhere in this structure in the latter part of the second decade of the 20th century, evaluated the circumstances on the ground in the ‘old country,’ and deliberated their options. As men of vision they committed to a holy mission, and, inspired by the love of God and the illumination of the Gospel, founded the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

‘They are hungry, naked and without shelter,’ said Rev. Haroutune Jinishian in his address at that inaugural meeting. He continued, ‘It is imperative that we extend a helping hand to them...I am confident that this proposed Association will be a blessing to our people.’

And, it was!

A century of faithful service to our Lord, our people, and humanity is the legacy of this Association. And, if you exercise some imagination and weigh the impact on the lives of thousands of our kin across the globe, you will be able to appreciate Rev. Jinishian’s confidence.

Another giant, whose heartbeat echoes in the air not only in this sanctuary today but in our personal and collective lives across the globe every day, is the prominent Armenian Evangelical scholar, minister, author, editor, AMAA founder and Executive Director Rev. Antranig A. Bedikian. Rev. Bedikian summed up his vision of the future as follows, ‘Today, we may not fully understand the significance of the proposed Missionary Association, but in the near future, I am sure, we will see the glory of the panorama of this organization. God willing, with our material and spiritual support, we shall strengthen our churches in America, as well as those overseas.’

This afternoon, as representatives of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, five global Armenian Evangelical Unions and the Europe Fellowship, representing around 150 places of worship and houses of God, gather in this cradle of the physical and spiritual rebirth of our people, it is not hard for us to grasp the truth in Rev. Antranig Bedikian’s prediction and praise God for the Genesis of the AMAA.

Today is the past of the future.
Today is the past of AMAA’s future.

What we do today and how we plan and envision the second century of the AMAA will shape the future of our people. Our Centennial Campaign motto summed up it all – ‘Faithful to the Legacy. Embracing the Future.’

Our measure of success in realizing the bright future we collectively dream of today will come 100 years from now, when our progeny chooses a time machine to visit us.

Thank you, Worcester of yesterday and Worcester of today.
May we succeed to be worthy to be the desired destination of those celebrating the second century of the AMAA.
Thank you. ☐

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Awarded Honorary Membership in the Writers’ Union of Armenia

On September 13, 2019, the Writers’ Union of Armenia (WUA) held its regular meeting. Among other items on the Agenda, the Union discussed awarding the title of "Honorary Member" to Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

Edward Militonnyan, President of the Union, presented Mr. Khanjian as an author, publicist, a Diaspora activist in the spheres of education and church and a great patriot. Mr. Militonnyan said that he had an opportunity to meet Mr. Khanjian, talk to him and read two of his works: "Is this House Yours or Mine?" and "Aleppo: First Station," and attend the presentation of these two books in Yerevan in June 2019.



Mr. Militonnyan noted that Mr. Khanjian’s "Is this House Yours or Mine?" summarizes the indelible impressions of his Western Armenian pilgrimage. "It represents Armenian history, literature, architecture and a broader cultural map in general," said Mr. Militonnyan. "Zaven has a vast field of knowledge, where every stone and shrub, monastery, song and poem are wonderfully and thoroughly immersed in spiritual light and touching emotion."

After questions and answers, the Union members unanimously voted Zaven Khanjian as an Honorary Member of the WUA.

Mr. Militonnyan was so impressed by Mr. Khanjian’s book, that he published an excerpt entitled "Two Story House" in the April 19 weekly edition of the WUA official publication. In his Introduction Mr. Militonnyan writes: "I was very touched by the story of Zaven’s forefather’s house, that it inspired me to write this poetic version. I have changed some names. The story is rewritten through my eyes. My ancestors also have left their home in the Taron Valley. This is everyone’s story." (This article can be found at: <http://www.grakantert.am/archives/12406>).

Mr. Khanjian’s books "Is this House Yours or Mine?" and "Aleppo: First Station" were presented at the AMAA Center in Yerevan on June 12 under the auspices of the Writer’s Union of Armenia, Khachatur Abovyan "Diaspora" Scientific-Educational Center of Armenian State Pedagogical University and the AMAA.

The AMAA congratulates Mr. Khanjian for this prestigious award from the Writers’ Union of Armenia.



AMAA's 100th Annual Meeting Banquet Co-Chairs John and Michèle Simourian greet the guests.

AMAA's 100th Annual Meeting Banquet

A Dazzling Success

By Florence Avakian

The 100th Anniversary of any gathering is a magical event. The weekend of October 18 to 20 in the Boston area of the Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) 100th Annual Meeting Banquet was especially noteworthy as it celebrated the Armenian Evangelical Church and the 173rd Anniversary of its founding.

Its significance was marked by the presence of hundreds of members, friends and faithful who came from as far away as Australia, Armenia, Lebanon, Syria, Greece, France, and the East and West Coasts of the United States.

The highlight of the extraordinary weekend was the grand Banquet on Saturday evening, October 19, which began with a cocktail reception, followed by a delicious dinner in the elegantly decorated ballroom.

The more than 300 guests were warmly welcomed by Banquet Co-Chair Michèle Simourian both in English and Armenian. Skillfully running the program was Master of Ceremonies and Banquet Co-Chair John

Simourian, who with the right touches introduced the prominent individuals present, including Armenia's Ambassador to the U.S. Varuzhan Nersesyan, and Rev. Fr. Antranig Baljian, representing the Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian.

Following the singing of the National anthems and the Invocation delivered by Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, Pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, MA, Ambassador Nersesyan was introduced.

100 YEARS OF ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS

The Armenian diplomat recalled the founding of the AMAA in Worcester 101 years ago following the Armenian Genocide when "hundreds of thousands of Armenian men, women and children were still roaming in the deserts in Syria, Lebanon and the Middle East, suffering from hunger, poverty and the lack of any minimal conditions of life."

He pointed out the enormous contributions of the AMAA in the last 100 years,

including during the devastating 1988 earthquake, during and after the birth of the independent Armenian republic, the time of Artzakh's fight for liberation, and its creation for a better future providing shelter, food and education in 24 countries.

"And during the recent tragic war in Syria, the AMAA has been ready to support any Armenians willing to settle in Armenia in the aftermath of Turkey's recent attack on the north of Syria," the Ambassador explained.

All these activities demonstrate that the AMAA is a "unique and deeply national Armenian institution," the Armenian diplomat stated. "With such a great heritage, and rigorous determination, the AMAA will continue confidently in its mission in the 21st century," he stated to thunderous applause. (See Ambassador's message on page 22).

24 COUNTRIES WITH 10 MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY

AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian who emotionally relayed coming to the U.S. 43 years ago following "the horrors of the Lebanese civil war," spoke

about the AMAA's powerful history which today serves the Armenian Community in 24 countries with a yearly budget of more than 10 million dollars.

"This generation has capabilities that far exceeds those in 1918," he stated. "Our work is not done as long as there is hunger for God's work, as long as there are children who are thirsty for education, and as long as there are families or individuals for whom finding daily bread is a daily challenge. May God make us worthy of this mission."

A video of the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian High School in Yerevan's Malatia-Sebastia district was shown, a School totally funded by the AMAA that has been tuition-free for more than 580 students.

One of the graduate students of the Avedisian High School, Lucine Mnatsakanyan was invited by Dr. Darakjian to come forward, and accept the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certificate and the glass plaque for the Avedisian High School in honor of benefactors Edward and Pamela Avedisian who were not able to attend. Avedisian High School is the first building in the Republic of Armenia to achieve such an award and was also awarded the LEED Earth Designation, given only to the very first building project in each developing country to satisfy the USGBC LEED criteria.

Ms. Mnatsakanyan, who is now a third year student at the American University of Armenia, paid tribute to the great attributes of the Avedisian High School, saying, "We are raised to be true Christians, and citizens, and have been exposed to all the studies of an exemplary education." (See Ms. Mnatsakanyan's message on page 22).

Delighting the audience, two acclaimed world class musicians, tenor Yeghishe Manucharyan, and mezzo soprano Victoria Avetisyan, who had opened the Banquet Program with the American and Armenian anthems, sang several Armenian and international favorites, including the soul stirring "Pari Arakil", "Habanera", "Solo Mio", and "Hayastan."

Tenor Manucharyan, who has sung at the renowned Metropolitan Opera in NY, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and other concert halls in the U.S., Italy and Ireland, brought the house down with his rendition of "Pari Arakil" dedicated to Armenia's symbolic beloved bird (the crane). The couple's dramatic singing of "Hayastan" was another crowd pleaser.

AMAA Vice President Dr. Michael Voskian paid tribute to the history of the Armenian Evangelical Church which he revealed has grown and consists of 124 churches and five unions in Armenia, North America, the Near East, France and Eurasia.

Representing the Armenian Evangelical Churches around the globe is the Armenian Evangelical World Council, with its President Rev. Joël Mikaélian who was asked to come forward by Dr. Voskian to be honored.

Also honored were Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, host of the Armenian Memorial Church, as well as Rev. Stephen Carlyle of the first Armenian Evangelical Church in North America established on January 1, 1892 - the Armenian Church of the Martyrs in Worcester, MA. All were presented with special plaques.

HEALTH CRISIS BRINGS ON AN ACTION OF TRUE FAITH

During the joyous evening, a female guest suddenly passed out, and was immediately assisted by attending doctors until the ambulance came. As this was happening, several small groups of *badvelis* (pastors) spontaneously rose making small circles with their arms on each other's shoulders, bending their heads, and silently praying for the ill woman. For this journalist who had never witnessed such a powerful action, it was both inspiring and for many an action of true faith.

Expressing deep appreciation to the "ingenious and hard-working" Banquet Committee, the AMAA staff and all involved individuals for the successful weekend and Banquet, AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian asked Stephen Papazian, Moderator of the Armenian Church of the

Martyrs of Worcester, to come forward to receive a "Sugar Sculpture" donated by Linda Khachadurian.

Revealing the main challenge of his position, Mr. Khanjian stated "a challenge that I struggle with is the difficulty in conveying a well-deserved gratitude to righteous men and women who fly on the wings of goodness in life, and who instead, faithfully direct it to God."

The AMAA Executive Director/CEO also announced that a symposium would soon take place in Armenia on the Post Genocide endeavor to save the remnants of the survivors. It is being organized by the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute Foundation, and sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

"It will honor and bring to light the many heroes who miraculously embraced the orphaned Armenian children and widowed mothers with shelter, healing, food, education and lovingly shielded them from the killing fields of Der El-Zor."

He remembered that today anguished civilians in the towns and villages in Syria, deportation is once again taking place, leaving behind all they possess. "But the clear victims are the Syrian people, including the progeny of the Genocide survivors.

"The AMAA has faced the spiritual and humanitarian challenges of our people, and we have collectively and positively answered the call, and through your righteous giving will continue to make it happen," he said in conclusion to a standing ovation. (See Mr. Khanjian's message on page 23).

The closing prayer and Benediction by Rev. Joël Mikaélian, and the singing of "God Bless America" brought an extraordinary and inspiring Banquet and weekend to a glorious close. □



L to R: Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, Rev. Stephen Carlyle, Rev. Joël Mikaélian and Dr. Michael Voskian.

Remarks of H.E. Varuzhan Nersesyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United States of America at AMAA 100th Annual Meeting Banquet

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Mr. Khanjian,
Distinguished Members of the Board of Directors,
Dear Members of AMAA,

I am very glad to be here with you tonight and to share the joy of the celebration.

AMAA is one of the unique Diaspora organizations. 101 years ago when AMAA was founded in Worcester, Massachusetts right in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide, hundreds of thousands Armenian men, women and children were still roaming in the deserts of Syria, Lebanon and different parts of Middle East suffering from hunger, poverty and the lack of any minimal conditions of life.

101 years ago, when the founding fathers of the AMAA came together in Worcester, Massachusetts they knew that it was not going to be easy. It was not going to be easy to extend help to their suffering compatriots. But nothing could stop them. And they started this inspiring journey called the Armenian Missionary Association of America. They did so and they succeeded because they had a determination and vision.

Also 101 years ago, these people came together because they were united in their faith and in their Christian faith. And they proved the Bible not only in prayer but also in their deeds.

Thus, throughout this wonderful journey, the AMAA has done a tremendous job to rescue and to help the survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

But the AMAA has redefined its mission when the independent Armenian Republic was born. Even before that, back in 1988 when the devastating earthquake struck and destroyed the entire north of Armenia, AMAA was one of the first to reach out to its compatriots.

The AMAA stood firmly behind the independent Armenian Republic and the fight for Nagoro Karabagh liberation movement by reaching out to those in need and in desperate conditions. And the AMAA has created a better future for Armenia by the principle of changing the world through education. I looked at the AMAA map and saw that it carries out its mission in 24 countries. This is amazing.

AMAA never rests and is always faithful to its mission. As recently as last week I received a message from Mr. Khanjian saying that the AMAA is ready to support any Armenians willing to be transferred to Armenia in the aftermath of Turkey's recent attack on the north of Syria. This is deeply appreciated by the Government of Armenia.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the AMAA for its support to the Embassy of Armenia and to the Permanent Mission of Armenia over the years. We deeply appreciate this.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All these examples demonstrate that the AMAA is a unique and deeply national Armenian institution, an institution that we need to be proud of. I am confident that with such a great heritage and with such a rigorous determination AMAA is going to continue confidently its mission in the 21st century.



Avedisian School Alumna Lusine Mnatsakanyan's Speech at the AMAA's 100th Annual Meeting Banquet in Boston

Good evening everyone. I am Lusine from Armenia. I am one of the first graduates of Avedisian School, and I currently study at the American University of Armenia.

I am very honored to be here today. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about my beloved School.

I spent my high school years at Avedisian School. Those three years were full of opportunities, challenges and lifetime memories.

Avedisian School has taught us to be environmentally responsible. To have a greener impact on the environment, we always recycled waste and used water efficiently. We also have solar panels which help us save electricity. More interestingly, we have a trash museum, where we exhibit our artwork made from garbage. I was very excited when I found out that we received a LEED certificate. I had the feeling that whatever we are doing is right and also rewarded. Now, I feel very honored to receive the certificate on behalf of the Avedisian family and my School.

Moreover, my School taught me to be kind and responsible. It also helped me act based on Christian values in different stages of my life. I am sure I would not be the same person without Avedisian School.

The impact my School, teachers and principal had on my development is immense. I would not be able to speak English, study at my dream university and reach many goals, if I did not attend Avedisian School. The knowledge, I received from AHS still helps me at AUA. The values and life lessons will always guide me in my life.

In short, I will always be thankful to my School, teachers, principal, staff, benefactors and founders. I am sure all my classmates and other students share the same feelings and thoughts about Avedisian School.

Thank you.



Lusine Mnatsakanyan and AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian.

AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian's Message at AMAA's 100th Annual Meeting Banquet

Good Evening Massachusetts,

It is such a pleasure to see the larger family of the AMAA from coast to coast and our esteemed guests from around the globe gather here tonight, in this great State of Massachusetts, where 100 Annual Meetings ago, the AMAA was lovingly, and by the grace of God, delivered into existence by the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of the East Coast.

For a long weekend, we enjoyed the warm hospitality of two amazing AMAA Committees, Host and Banquet.

Since early 2019 and under the direction of Co-Chairs John and Michèle Simourian, an ingenious and hard-working Banquet Committee has been diligently planning, toiling and preparing this beautiful evening for us to enjoy. Thank you, John and Michèle. Thank you, every single member of the Committee. May God abundantly bless you.

A special 'thank you' to John Simourian for masterfully delivering the warm and pleasant atmosphere experienced and shared by all this evening.

Thank you, Armenian Memorial Church Host Committee and Badveli Avedis Boynerian. In the warm, colorful and boundless spirit of the Boston Common, you embraced us in your midst with love, care and attention, extending every imaginable door to door service. May God bless your ministry.

Thank you, Badveli Stephen Carlyle and the Armenian Church of the Martyrs. I know you are prepared to welcome us, the pilgrims of the 100th Annual Meeting, who will head tomorrow to Worcester, to remember, reminisce and praise the Lord for the birth of the AMAA. May God bless the memory of the visionary founders and your ministry at the Armenian Church of the Martyrs.

I salute and thank our globally dispersed staff and partners in the Mission who have traveled the Oceans to join us today.

I salute and thank the AMAA staff in Paramus, Glendale and Armenia who graciously stand behind every effort made to advance every AMAA event, activity, service or program. Thank you, staff.

It should not be taken for granted. I'd like to take a moment and thank my wife, Sona, whose unwavering support and encouragement is what makes this 'energizer' keep going, going and going. Thank you, Sona, and thank you to all of the spouses, men and women, who are equally in the position of support and encouragement.

I am often asked the question of what my challenges are on the job.

A challenge that I struggle with is the difficulty in conveying a well-deserved gratitude to righteous men and women who fly on the wings of goodness in life. It is humbling to hear these Good Samaritans shrug off such attempts, rejecting ownership of the goodness and the extended honor that follows, faithfully directing it to God, the spring of eternal goodness.

A challenge that leaves me speechless.

In two weeks, a Symposium on the Post Genocide endeavor to save the remnants of the survivors will convene in Armenia. Organized by the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute Foundation and sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America, the Symposium will honor and bring to light the many heroes who miraculously embraced the orphaned Armenian children and widowed mothers, sheltered, healed, fed, educated and lovingly shielded them from the killing fields of Der El-Zor. Standing tall among them were Rev. Aharon Shirajian and Rev. Hovhannes Eskijian the products of Armenian Evangelical colleges and seminaries in Turkey.

It is a historical irony that at the threshold of this Symposium, the region witnesses yet another aggression by the same unabated power in the Near East, causing death and destruction behind. Once again, anguished civilian masses, including our kin in Tel Abyad, Ras al-Ayn, Kamishli and other towns and villages in North Eastern Syria, hit the road of deportation leaving behind homes, orchards, acreage and belongings. The plot to dismember Syria is beyond us. The clear victim is the Syrian people including the progeny of the survivors of the Genocide saved by Reverends Shirajian and Eskijian.

Despite serious obstacles the AMAA will reach out.

We will embrace our people, move the willing to the Homeland, Armenia and while Turkey destroys, we shall build where they are.

God has called on the AMAA to face the spiritual and humanitarian challenges of our people and assume a leadership role. We have collectively and positively answered the call. And through your righteous giving you continue to make it happen. You are an integral part of the legacy of Love, Faith and Service

As our eyes look up at the Great Commission of "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" Mark. 16:15, the march goes on.

Thank you for sharing this evening with us. Thank you for your support and may God bless you all. ☐



AEWC Executive Committee Meets in Watertown, Massachusetts



By Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, AEWc Executive Director

The Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its Annual Meeting in Watertown, MA on October 17-18, 2019. Representatives of the five Church Unions, the AMAA and Stephen Philibosian Foundation were in attendance. There were also some out of country guests.

The Meeting was opened with a brief message and prayer by the President of the Council Rev. J  l Mika  lian. An oral report was presented by AEWc President Rev. Mika  lian. Due to circumstances beyond their control, Treasurer Nurhan Helvacian and Executive Director Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian were unable to attend. Their written reports were submitted to the Executive Committee. Also, brief oral reports were presented by the seven members of the Council.

Rev. Dr. Tootikian explained that although he could not be with the Committee in person, he would participate in the business session of the meeting by telephone.

The following items were duly discussed and acted upon:

1. Unified Armenian Evangelical Authority. This five-member Committee did not have a report at this time. The Executive Committee decided to appoint a new Chairman, Rev. Megr  ditch Karagoezian, to head this Committee and present his report at the next AEWc Biennial Meeting.

2. All-Armenian Evangelical Youth Conference. This Conference scheduled to be held from August 1 to 8, 2020, was postponed until the summer of 2021, to be held in Armenia in conjunction with the 175th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church.



Front Row L to R: Joyce Philibosian Stein, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Rev. J  l Mika  lian, Zaven Khanjian, Rev. Haroutune Selimian. Back Row L to R: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Rev. Albert Paytyan, Rev. Garnik Tutikyan, Rev. Jeremy Tovmassian, Rev. Dr. R  ne L  onian, Rev. Megr  ditch Karagoezian. Missing from the photo: Rev. Bedj Djambazian, Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian.

3. 175th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church in year 2021. July 1, 2021 will mark the 175th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church (AEC). The Executive Committee resolved to celebrate this milestone in the summer of 2021 in Armenia, with the following goals in mind: a) To praise God for the witness and service of AEC for the past 175 years; b) To bring under one roof all Armenian Evangelical pastors and religious workers for an All-Armenian Evangelical Conference; c) To organize a pan-Armenian Evangelical Youth Convention in conjunction with the All-Armenian Evangelical Conference; d) To assemble representatives from the lay leadership of each of the Evangelical churches; e) To organize a post-conference pilgrimage, visiting Armenian Evangelical churches and AMAA mission centers, as well as visiting sightseeing-venues in Armenia.

The Executive Committee also resolved to form a seven-member Anniversary Celebration Committee, from each of the AEWc member organizations. It was further resolved that Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, be the general Chairman of the 175th Anniversary Committee.

4. Armenian Evangelical Digital Archive Project. Rev. Vicken Cholakian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical of Athens, Greece, presented a report regarding the proposed digitation of Armenian Evangelical archives. The Committee thanked Rev. Cholakian and discussed the importance of this issue at length. It resolved that each Armenian Evangelical church and organization take the initiative digitizing its archives and important documents.

The Committee thanked Rev. Cholakian and discussed the importance of this issue at length. It resolved that each Armenian Evangelical church and organization take the initiative digitizing its archives and important documents.

5. The Armenian Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church (AERPC). The Church building of AERPC of Nicosia, Cyprus has been under the Turkish occupation ever since the Turks occupied a large part of Cyprus. Dr. Hrayr Jebejian, a leading member of the Armenian Evangelical community of Cyprus, had written to the Council about the claim of ownership of the church property until such time when the country reached a political settlement. The Executive Committee discussed this issue and resolved that because AERPC is a member of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE), this matter falls under the jurisdiction of UAECNE and should be handled by that Union.

6. The Crisis in Northeastern Region of Syria. The Turkish invasion in the Northeastern region of Syria on October 10, 2019 was discussed and the following resolution was adopted:

During its October 17-18, 2019 meeting, the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) discussed the October 10, 2019 Turkey unilateral invasion in the northeastern region of Syria and its devastating consequences on its inhabitants.

The AEWc strongly condemns not only Turkey's flagrant violation of international law and human rights, but also its ethnic cleansing of Kurds and other minorities, Arabs, Yezidis, Assyrians and Armenians.

The AEWc appeals to the United Nations Organization (UNO) and the international community to condemn Turkey for:

a) This illegal invasion that caused numerous deaths and destruction of property;

b) The creation of thousands of refugees;

c) The ethnic cleansing of people.

The AEWc also appeals to UNO and the international community to take immediate practical steps to put an end to the bloodshed, to ensure the safe return of the refugees to their homes, and to protect the citizens of Syria. It is the heartfelt prayers of AEWc that peace will prevail in northeastern Syria.

The Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical World Council

7. Grateful Thanks to the Host Church. The AEWc Executive Committee extended its heartfelt thanks to the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA and to its Pastor, Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, for hosting the AEWc meeting of October 17-18, 2019.

The meeting adjourned on Friday, October 18 at 1:15 p.m.   

AMAA Sundays Held in Havertown, PA and Paramus, NJ

The AMAA works closely with churches of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and makes every effort to visit member churches throughout the year.

On Sunday, September 15, AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian was invited to speak at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church (AMCC) of Havertown, PA. During the Church Service Mr. Khanjian brought both the English and Armenian messages. His theme was "You are the Light of the World" which was based on Matthew 5:14-16. At the fellowship hour Mr. Khanjian shared the vision and mission of the AMAA with the congregation. Besides supporting many of the ministries of the Association, AMCC also sponsors the education of several students in the Middle East and Armenia.

On Sunday, November 10, Mr. Khanjian was invited to the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ for AMAA Sunday. Mr. Khanjian brought the English message during the Church Service. The title of his message was "Jesus is my Role Model" based on Matthew 11:29. "As a believer, I cannot confine myself to the complacency of my faith taking shelter in the promise of salvation without emulating the sacrifice, love, indulgence and compassion Christ has set for me," said Mr. Khanjian. At the mission luncheon, a brief report about AMAA's mission and outreach was presented along with a powerpoint presentation. Mr. Khanjian thanked the members of the APC and invited them to continue to be part of AMAA with their prayers and financial support.   



Zaven and Sona Khanjian (second and third from left) with the members of the AMCC Missions Committee.



Zaven Khanjian (fourth from right) with the members of the APC Missions Committee.



Avedisian School students greet Vartan Gregorian with the traditional bread and salt.

Vartan Gregorian, President of Carnegie Corporation of NY Visits Avedisian School

President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Vartan Gregorian recently visited the Armenian Missionary Association of America's Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School in Yerevan. "Do your best when fulfilling anything; live having self-respect and remember that failure is not defeat yet; moreover, it is a lesson for not stumbling on your path ahead," said the historian and "Aurora" Global Humanitarian Award Co-Founder and Selection Committee member in his opening remarks. Accompanied by School Benefactors Edward and Pamela Avedisian, Mr. Gregorian visited the School on October 23.

After giving a brief overview of his respectable scientific and public path in the past, Mr. Gregorian answered the audience's diverse questions, such as his views on school, education, philanthropy, and volunteering. Some of the questions were

about his Armenian childhood, family, and his ties with the Homeland.

"You owe it to yourself to make Armenia become the strongest country in education, banking, new technologies, medical, and other priority areas. So, whatever you do in life, do your best. Live in self-respect; accept any failure not as a defeat but as a lesson on your path. Learn and enjoy the opportunities you have. And, remember that the future of the Armenian people is in your hands," said Mr. Gregorian in his closing remarks.

As a result of this year's "Aurora" Awards organizers' selections, three of the volunteers chosen to assist in the ceremony represented Avedisian School – two twelfth graders, Gohar Varderesyan and Aleksander Mnat-sakanyan, and alumna Milena

Galstyan. The three volunteers performed their noble and responsible volunteer work honorably and with excellence. □

(Translated from Armenian into English by Louisa Janbazian)



From left to right: President of Carnegie Corporation Vartan Gregorian, Avedisian School Benefactors Pamela and Edward Avedisian, and Avedisian School Principal Melanya Geghamyan.

Haigazian Board of Trustees and Alumni Association Honors Retiring Trustees and Awards Six Scholarships

Four Haigazian University Board of Trustees members were honored for their long years of service during the Annual Banquet organized by the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Association on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at the La Cañada, CA Country Club. The Banquet was the culmination of several days of meetings in Los Angeles, bringing together Trustees from across the U.S. as well as Beirut.

The evening began with the opening prayer by former Haigazian University President Rev. Dr. John Khanjian and the audience singing the Alma Mater. Haigazian President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, having just arrived from Beirut, shared: "The real wealth of Haigazian University is its people, past and present, be they Board members, students, faculty, administrators, alumni, supporters, or Women's Auxiliary groups."

Each honoree was presented with a plaque by Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Hasmig Baran. The four honorees, Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, Louis Kurkjian, Herair Mouradian, and Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, were introduced by Trustee Dr. Barkev Kassanjian and AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian. Their comments clearly spoke of being privileged to serve such a remarkable endeavor.

Concerning the impact Haigazian has on many levels, President Haidostian commented: "In addition to the regular academic programs, our teacher training workshops, publications, international conferences, internships for young officials from Armenia and Artsakh, and partnership with global educational centers, take us beyond the limits of the Beirut campus."

"My gratitude is to all who have made this day possible," continued President Haidostian, "especially raising funds for scholarships. Being that the annual scholarship budget is 1.5 million dollars, annual tuition is \$9,000, and the average annual household income not exceeding \$15,000, one may understand each recipient's gratitude. Special thanks to the AMAA, the Philibosian Foundation, and other partners for their continued commitment and generosity." Noting the



L to R: Haigazian University President Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph.D., AMAA President Nazareth Darakjian, M.D., Honoree Herair Mouradian, Honoree H. Steven Aharonian, M.D., Haigazian University Board Chair Hasmig Baran, Ed.D., Honoree Vahe Nalbandian, Ph.D. and Honoree Louis Kurkjian.

coming celebratory year, President Haidostian said, "2020 is our 65th anniversary, with events being planned throughout the year in Beirut, Los Angeles and Yerevan!"

With their hearts and minds on the current problems occurring in Beirut, the evening highlighted the understanding that Haigazian University, with its diverse student population, will indisputably continue to be a vibrant institution, as its graduates continue to use their newly gained knowledge and expertise as leaders in their chosen fields to enrich Lebanon, the surrounding countries, and the Armenian Diaspora.

Banquet Co-Chairs Katia Kermoyan-Khodianian and Raffi Kendirjian and their

dedicated Committee are to be highly commended for organizing this exceptional event to bring hope and encouragement to young people in the Middle East aspiring to a brighter future through this unique University.

Founded in 1955 under the auspices of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) and the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), and notably the only Armenian University outside Armenia, Haigazian University, with a motto of *Truth, Freedom, Service*, has served Lebanon and the region by empowering valuable human resources as a beacon of learning for a diverse community, and for a better life and service. □

Thanksgiving Meditation

By George R. Phillips, Esq., Sr.

The essence is to bless others,
Not self serving, but treating all as sisters and brothers.
The risk is to be lost in the details and trimmings.
It clouds out the purpose and the true meanings.

Give us thankful hearts so we acknowledge Your provision,
To lead us in Your mission.
May He grant a Blessed thanksgiving to all.
We are blessed if we hear His plaintiff call.



Haigazian University Celebrates Founders' Day

By **Mira Yardemian**, Haigazian University Public Relations Director

On Monday, October 14, Haigazian University celebrated its 64th Founders' Day with a renewed faith and commitment to the University's core values of "Truth, Freedom and Service." The guest speaker of this auspicious ceremony was the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Megrđitch Karagoezian.

The ceremony was attended by political, diplomatic, religious, educational and community leaders, in addition to members of the Board of Trustees, the Business Advisory Board and the Women's Auxiliary, University faculty, staff and students. Present were current Members of Parliament, Hagop Pakradouni and Gen. Jean Talouzian, former MP Dr. Bassem Shabb and former Ministers Jean Oghasabian and Vrej Sabounjian, Public Affairs Officer of the US Embassy Kristina Hayden, and Acting General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches Dr. Surayya Bachaalani.

In his keynote address, Rev. Karagoezian praised Haigazian's Founders, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) for the values they stood for 64 years ago, with strong acts of "faith, vision and commitment." Those values are summed up in three words, which constitute the University's motto: Truth, Freedom and Service. In their daring and bold venture of establishing an institution of higher learning, the Founders wanted "to bring forth balance in the lives of persons, institutions and communities with the values they themselves lived by," said Rev. Karagoezian.

Elaborating more on Truth, Freedom and Service, Rev. Karagoezian said, "there are no shortcuts to the Truth, it has to be sought after diligently and sincerely; there

are no partialities in Freedom, it has to be whole and responsible; there are no pre-tenses to Service, it has to be dedicated and faithful."

Speaking about Education in general and Higher Education in particular, University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian focused on the notions of hope, humility and sharing. "A university is a society of humility and sharing; humility so that we may accept our limitations and learn; sharing so that we may teach each other and learn from each other for the good of all," said Rev. Dr. Haidostian. He reiterated the vision and commitment of the Founders to educating generations in the Middle East, making sure they don't succumb to limitation and conflict, but instead be positive players. "Your future is not dictated by the limitations and the shortcomings of those others. Your future is dictated by how you break new ground, and faithfully fill the gaps of your world with things that are healthy, helpful and sustainable," Rev. Dr. Haidostian concluded.

The ceremony started with a prayer of invocation offered by Campus Minister Rev. Dr. Wilbert Van Saane and was musically entertained by student Carmen Boyadjian on the piano, who played "Gakhartagan Srink" by Alan Hovhannes, and vocalist



Rev. Megrđitch Karagoezian.

Nazani Atamian graciously singing John Lennon's "Imagine," accompanied by Garen Kazanjian on the piano. The University's motto, "Truth, Freedom and Service", was conveyed with testimonies of students from Spiritual Life, Hope for Helpers and Extreme Team, each evoking their experiences and campaigns for various causes.

The Ceremony concluded with President Haidostian along with Trustee John Sagherian presenting a token of appreciation to Rev. Karagoezian for his steadfast support of the University and its mission. □



AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian Visits Merdinian School

By **Louisa Janbazian**

On Thursday morning, November 7, AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian visited the C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, CA. The students greeted him in the Chapel singing the Anthem of the Republic of Armenia as well as two hymns. They were accompanied by Music Teacher Alice Derkevorkian on the piano. Principal Lina Arslanian welcomed Mr. Khanjian and introduced him as one of the School's founding members who served on the School's Board of Directors as a member and as Chair for many years and as a big supporter of Merdinian School.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Khanjian said he felt at home at Merdinian, which is the only Armenian Evangelical School in North America under the auspices of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. He then addressed the students with a beautiful message, emphasizing the importance of smile, which he said, is a symbol of inner contentment, while laughter is the result of a humorous story or a funny incident.

Mr. Khanjian shared three reasons that put smiles on our faces, namely, having the privilege of attending a school like Merdinian, having caring parents and family, and most importantly, having a Savior who loves us. He then shared the story of Jesus calling the little children to Him and blessing them (Mark 10:13-16). He related his message

to the great Armenian poet Jacque Hagopian, who passed away just two days earlier, and expressed his contentment for having a poet who lived such a long life and who dedicated his writings to Armenia, to our nation, and to God. Mr. Khanjian shared a few verses from two of Mr. Hagopian's poems with the students and teachers. He concluded his message with a prayer.

Following the chapel service, Mr. Khanjian met with Principal Arslanian and a few teachers in the faculty room and discussed various matters pertaining to the School.



Established in 1982 by the AMAA, the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, Merdinian is the only Armenian Evangelical School in North America. The School offers a broad-based curriculum that fosters academic excellence, high moral values, and spiritual enrichment in the Armenian Evangelical tradition. Merdinian strives to create a safe and nurturing environment where every student receives personal attention to become a successful and responsible individual. □

Presentation of the 39th Volume of the Haigazian Armenological Review in Yerevan

The presentation of the 39th Volume of the Haigazian Armenological Review (HAR) was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, in the auditorium of the National Library of Armenia (NLA), Yerevan. Present were the President of Haigazian University Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, the Director of the National Library Hrachya Saripegian, Editor-in-Chief of HAR Dr. Antranig Dakesian, staff of the National Library, friends, guests from Beirut, colleagues, and over 50 researchers as well as contributors to HAR.

Mr. Saripegian after his Welcome, together with Rev. Dr. Haidostian signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions, which sets the framework for a fruitful cooperation.

In his short address, Dr. Dakesian reminded the audience that the HAR editorial board has been working toward a broader definition for the field and scope of Armenian Studies. He noted that at the "doorstep of the 50th anniversary of the first issue of HAR (which will coincide with the 40th Volume) the Board will make special efforts to publish research articles related to the thirty year history of the current Republic of Armenia, alongside other conventional papers."

Rev. Dr. Haidostian asked, "What ideas, knowledge, language and information would we like to pass on to future researchers?" He added that websites and blogs already transfer knowledge to future generations. However, these have a quality control problem, unlike the academic and conventional journals, which still are credited as trustworthy. In conclusion, he called for further academic scrutiny.

Researchers and scholars from North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and the Republic of Armenia have contributed to this Volume. The event was an excellent opportunity for the contributors to get to know each other and share in this new achievement.



AMAA's Act of Love Has Dual Effect on Vazashen Family

A New House and Return of Father to His Village Home

By Louisa Janbazian

In August 2018, Armenia’s Hetq News Agency reported on Armenuhi Vazashen, Armenia – Hakobyan and her family from Vazashen, a village in Armenia’s Tavush Province – just a few hundred meters from the Azerbaijani sharpshooters and artillery placements. Being so close to the border, and with so many residents having difficulty making ends meet, life in Vazashen is very challenging.

For the last 15 years, the Hakobyan family had been living in a two-bedroom apartment on the second floor of a dilapidated building, located at the entrance of the village. The housing conditions were very poor. There was no gas, and, during rainstorms, water would pour down from the roof. Climbing up and down the stairs was dangerous. The problem was not only the condition of the building that could collapse anytime, but its location at the entrance of the village, which was under direct target of the enemy. There were

traces of old and new gun shots on the walls of the building. The family had to cover the windows that are on the enemy’s side, so that the lights in their home did not make them an enemy target. It was a miracle that the family had survived in that building for as long as they did. Due to a lack of money, they could not afford to buy a house deeper in the village, or in one of the neighboring villages. As if living in these conditions is not difficult enough, Armenuhi’s husband was forced to find work in Russia to support his family. She said her family felt like they didn’t have a way out of their situation.

When the Armenian Missionary Association of America-Armenia learned about the Hakobyan family from Hetq, they reached out and assisted the family by purchasing a house for them in the village, as well as providing building materials to make the necessary repairs. As a result, the family’s father returned home from Russia and began working toward repairing their home.



Dilapidated stairs of the old house.

By the first quarter of 2019, most of the repairs were completed. AMAA’s act of charity had a dual effect. The family now has a safe house and the father is back home from Russia, living with his family again.

The AMAA expresses its gratitude to the donors who, with their generous support, enabled the Hakobyan family to overcome their living conditions, and to live both safely and comfortably. □



Life in Vazashen.



Construction materials for the house provided by AMAA.

Vanadzor "Shogh" Day Center for Children

By Irina Chahoyan, Coordinator, Vanadzor "Shogh" Day Center

When the school bell rings each afternoon, countless children are left alone and unsupervised. Every child deserves access to a safe and nurturing environment. AMAA’s "Shogh" Day Center, which has been operating in Vanadzor, Armenia since 2013, ensures that school-aged children have a safe place to go afterschool, especially while parents work. The Vanadzor “Shogh” Center has approximately 65 children enrolled who are between the ages of 6-14 years old.

Children are referred to the Center through various provincial departments, public schools, BSEC (a local social service agency), as well as by families of current attending children. The Center’s experienced personnel promote positive social behavior through developmentally appropriate and stimulating activities that meet the educational, social and emotional needs of the attending children.

Children arrive at the Center after dismissal from their regular public school, receive a nutritious hot meal, and then proceed to classes, breakout into small groups or one-to-one meetings. Qualified social workers, psychologists, educators, art teachers, dance tutors and computer specialists work with every child according to a pre-designed curriculum and intervention plan which includes social, psychological,

educational, and recreational support services. Part of the daily lessons include instruction in both Armenian language and mathematics. A child’s psychological and social-educational progress are tracked using tests, questionnaires, and home visits. Continual assessment summaries comprise an annual review and analysis.

The Center has had a ripple effect: teachers and principals from the area schools contact the Center, asking to collaborate on specific children’s issues and request help organizing special activities at their school that they have seen on the Center’s Facebook page. Parents and guardians are also pleased with the educational progress and their child’s improved self-esteem and communication skills. AMAA provides transportation to children living beyond walking distance from the Vanadzor Center. AMAA also provides families, identified with urgent needs, with food, clothing and financial support.

In 2020, the Vanadzor “Shogh” Day Center will move to a new building, which will give a renewed focus and energy, fresh thoughts and ideas. The new facility is larger, with a nice little garden with fruit trees and a more streamlined layout of classrooms and kitchen/eating areas.

Every day, staff at the Vanadzor “Shogh” Day Center focus on teaching, encouraging

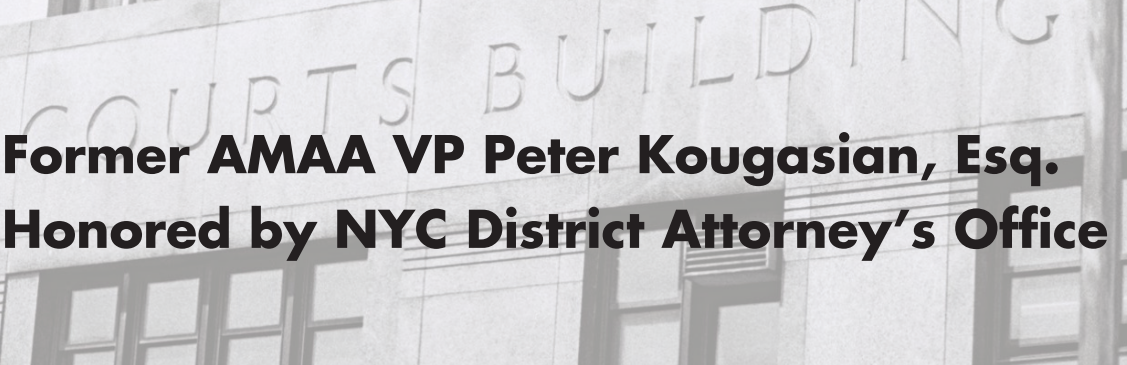
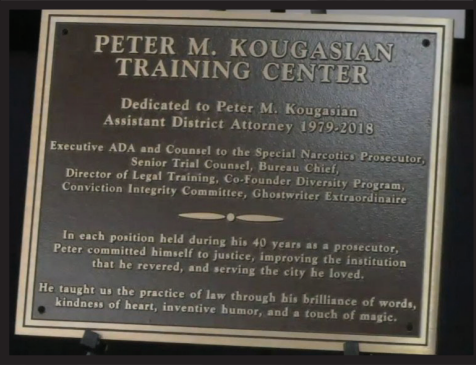


Children at Vanadzor "Shogh" Center.

and healing the innocent children who arrive every afternoon. A new day may bring a new challenge or hurdle but their commitment remain steadfast. Fortunately, where some see obstacles, many see an opportunity to make a difference. AMAA members and friends’ continual philanthropic support is needed to seize these opportunities. Please consider making a donation today to continue strengthening this important Center and the work it does. If you would like to sponsor the Vanadzor Shogh Center contact Magda Poulos at the AMAA Paramus office - Tel. (201) 265-2607, E-mail mpoulos@amaa.org. You may also visit www.amaa.org to make a donation online or use the enclosed reply envelope to mail in your donation. □



The future home of Vanadzor "Shogh" Day Center.



Former AMAA VP Peter Kougasian, Esq. Honored by NYC District Attorney’s Office

By Jane Wenning

Peter Kougasian, Esq., former AMAA Board Member and Vice President and a long-time active member of the Armenian Evangelical Church in New York City, was honored on September 27 by the New York City District Attorney’s Office at a celebration of Peter’s 40 years of service as an Assistant District Attorney and as "an extraordinary human being."

Peter was an elected member of the AMAA Board since 1996 serving during that time as Vice President and as Chairman of the Armenia Committee. He also served as Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York for many years. He is a long-time member of the New York City Bar Association serving as former Vice President, former Chair of the Executive Committee and former Chair of the NYC Bar Association delegation to the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar.

"We congratulate our dear friend Peter on this very prestigious honor," said Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO. "His service to the AMAA is founded on the same principles that he has come to be known for in his profession – loyalty, dedication, devotion, service and commitment."

The standing room only crowd of Peter’s former colleagues and many friends was present at the celebration to unveil a bronze plaque that will hang outside of the Manhattan DA Office Training Center, which has officially been named after him. The plaque reads:

"The Peter M. Kougasian Training Center – Dedicated to Peter M. Kougasian, Assistant District Attorney 1979-2018. Executive ADA and Counsel to the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Senior Trial Counsel, Bureau Chief, Director of Legal Training, Co-Founder Diversity Program, Conviction Integrity Committee, Ghostwriter Extraordinaire. In each position held during his 40 years as a prosecutor, Peter committed himself to justice, improving the institution that he revered, and serving the city he loved. He taught us the practice of law through his

brilliance of words, his kindness of heart, inventive humor, and a touch of magic."

The dedication ceremony, presided over by current District Attorney of New York County Cyrus Vance, Jr. Esq., featured several notable speakers, including Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, a friend and former colleague who, by video, praised Peter for his long career. Speakers also cited his friendship, mentoring, loyalty, wisdom, leadership, dedication, humor, generous heart, faith, pride of his Armenian heritage and his love of magic.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Princeton University and a Yale Law School graduate, Peter has been "a friend for all seasons, a forever friend, a formidable public lawyer by day and a magician by night," according to Judge Robert Katzmann, Chief Judge of the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and a forty year friend and former Yale classmate. "Peter found a love for magic in college and performed whenever and wherever he could, even once before fellow amateur magician Johnny Carson. He has been called the ‘Amazing Kougasian’ and ‘Uncle Peter’ performing at many clubs in New York as well as internationally. Peter is a person of profound faith and has been proud of his Armenian heritage. He makes all of us better and brings out the best in all of us. As we celebrate Peter’s life today, we also celebrate his wife Beth and son Alex who are at the center of his life."

"Peter’s retirement is a loss for all of us," said Peter’s former boss, District Attorney Vance. "His gift to me was to share the magic of his gift of writing. I am forever grateful for your years of friendship, Peter. I love you. We all love you. I thank Peter for being in our lives; you are someone we’ve all looked up to. The plaque will now hang outside of the Training Room. In the days and years ahead, feel free to touch the plaque and get a touch of Peter’s magic."

Bridget Brennan, Esq., Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York, said that "Peter guided many colleagues with their careers and was a sounding board, trusted friend and advisor for us. His guidance has been



invaluable, and it is fitting that this Training Room is named after Peter as he has trained and educated so many of us who are here today. You shaped our outlooks and our careers."

"Peter, you are a man of integrity, honor and valor," said Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor, who was a classmate of Peter’s both at Princeton and Yale and worked with him under the late Robert Morgenthau, Esq. in the DA’s Office. "I hope that every young ADA who visits this Center will realize the very high bar you’ve raised for us in learning and mastering our skills as lawyers and as human beings. It is fitting to name the Training Center in your honor, Peter, as your words, heart, humor and magic have touched so many. Your epic struggle with ALS has been an example for all of us. You have told me that your faith has buoyed and sustained you. I know that is true, but I see much power in your indomitable spirit. The Training Center is lucky to have that spirit at its heart."

In a touching moment, from his New York City hospital room where he has been treated for ALS since November 2018, Peter spoke on camera to his assembled friends with the assistance of an electronic device.

"I am truly humbled and touched by this honor," said Peter. "You know that I am passionate about training because it is through training that we convey the value of our greatest assets. Your friendship sustains me, and I am thankful to everyone who has made this ceremony possible."

To see the entire video of the dedication ceremony, please visit <https://www.manhattanda.org/peter-m-kougasian-training-center-dedication/> □



ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL ՀԱՅ ԱՄԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՄԱՇԵՆԱՐՀԱՅԻՆ ԽՈՐՀՈՒՐԴ CONSEIL MONDIAL EVANGELIQUE ARMENIEN

at they may be one (John 17:11) ... որպէսզի անոնք մէկ ըլլան (Յովհ. 17.11) ... afin qu'ils soient un (Jean 17:11)

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Rev. Dr. Rene Leonian
Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian
Mrs. Joyce Philibosian Stein
Rev. Jacques Tchoghjanjian

Honorable Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The passage of House Resolution 296 in the U.S. House Representatives on October 29, 2019 is a great reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide as a historical fact.

On behalf of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, I wish to express our profound thanks to the United States House of Representatives, especially to those representatives who supported this historic resolution. We are grateful for their unwavering dedication to pursuing justice for the Armenian Genocide.

The House vote is a historic and commendable one. We pray and hope that the U. S. Senate and president Trump will follow suit.

Gratefully and prayerfully,

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director
Armenian Evangelical World Council

Բանաստեղծ Ժագ Յակոբեան 1917-2019

Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Յ. Թուրքիկեան

Նոյեմբեր 2, 2019–ին ի Տէր ննջեց ժամանակակից հայ գրականութեան նշանաւոր տիտաններէն մին, բանաստեղծ Ժագ Յակոբեանը: Ան հայ գրագէտներու այն քիչերէն մէկն էր (գուցէ միակը), որ աւելի քան 80 տարի ստեղծագործելէ ետք 102 տարեկան հասակին հրաժեշտ տուաւ այս աշխարհին: Իր մտքի պայծառութիւնն ու կորովը պահեց մինչեւ մահունէ քանի մը օր առաջ, եւ կրնանք ըսել գրիչը իր ձեռքին կառչած իր աչքերը փակեց՝ ակնթարթ մը յետոյ զանոնք կրկին բանալով իր ցանկացած երկնային տան մէջ:

Աւելի քան 60 տարի կարդացած եւ Ժագ Յակոբեանի բանաստեղծութիւնները, քարոզներն ու իր գրած նամակները իր գրչեղբայրներուն ու բարեկամներուն եւ սրանցացած եւ իր աստուածատուր տաղանդին վրայ եւ Աստուծոյ փառք տուած եւ իր այս տաղանդաւոր ծառային համար:

Իր բանաստեղծութեան առաջին հատորի հրատարակութիւնը եղաւ 1937-ին Այդ թուականէն մինչեւ իր մահը, աւելի քան 8 տասնամեակներ Ժագ Յակոբեան դարձաւ հայ մշակոյթի անխոնջ ծառան, Մեսրոպ Մաշտոցի նուիրեալ աշակերտը եւ հայ հոգեմտաւոր արժէքներու յանձնառու առաքեալը:

Աւելի քան 8 տասնամեակներ ան կրցաւ իր ժողովուրդի սրտին երգը երգել, հոգիին երազը հիւսել, անոր տագնապները ապրիլ եւ անոր յոյսերուն թարգմանը ըլլալ:

Աւելի քան 8 տասնամեակներ ազատ ու անկախ Հայաստանի դրօշակակիրը դարձաւ եւ երբ հայ ժողովուրդի այս նուիրական երազը իրականացաւ վերանկայեալ Հայաստանն ու Արցախը դարձան իր ներշնչման աղբիւրները:

Յետեղեռնեան սերունդէն մինչեւ մեր օրերը՝ բանաստեղծ Ժագ Յակոբեան ստեղծագործական իր վաստակի կշիռով ու որակով մեր ամենէն օժտուած քերթողներէն մին եղաւ: Իր գրական բոլոր ստեղծագործութիւնները կը յատկանշուին իրենց անժխտելի արժանիքներով, հաղորդականութեամբ եւ ինքնատիպութեամբ: Լեզուական իր բացառիկ շնորհներով, գեղագիտական իր ցայտուն հակումներով եւ պատկերաւոր իր հարուստ բառապաշարով՝ Յակոբեան դարձաւ մեր ամենավաւերական բանաստեղծներէն մէկը:

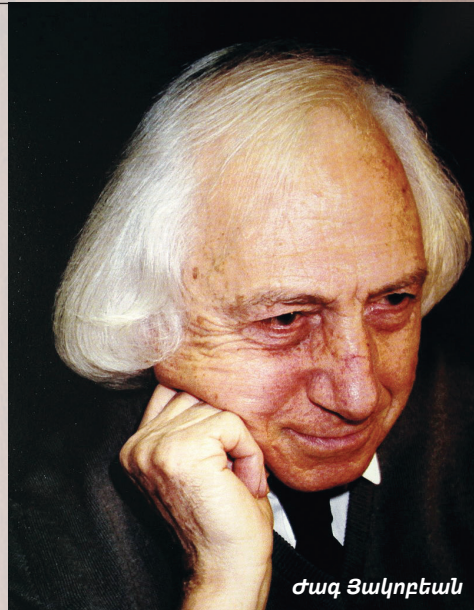
Եգիպտոսէն մինչեւ Լիբանան, ապա Աւստրալիա եւ հուսկ Ամերիկայի Միացեալ Նահանգներ՝ այս հանճարեղ բանաստեղծը իրեն հետ պտտցուց Արարատը: Իր բազմաբեղուն վաստակով, իր գրական ստեղծագործութեանով եւ մշակութային ներդրումով իւրայատուկ դրօշ մը ձգեց հայ գրականութեան բնագաւառէն ներս:

Իր կեանքը յեղաշրջող հոգեւոր խորունկ փորձառութենէ մը ետք, Ժագ Յակոբեանի շուրջ կէս դարու գրական արեւելահայումը եղաւ առաւելաբար հոգեւոր: Ան գործնապէս ապրեցաւ Քրիստոսանուէր կեանք մը: Աստուծոյ կողմէ իրեն շնորհուած գրական բարիքները բաժնեց իր ազգակիցներուն հետ՝ դառնալով անոնց անապաշտօն աւետարանիչը: Աւետարանի սկզբունքներուն քարոզութիւնը եւ հայ հոգեմտաւոր արժէքներու ծաւալումը եւ վերստին ծնելու անհրաժեշտութիւնը դարձան իր կեանքի առաջնահերթութիւնները:

Այսուհանդերձ, հոգեւոր այս աշխարհահայացքին զուգահեռ, ան շարունակեց շեփորել ազգին, հայրենիքին եւ մշակոյթին սէրը՝ իր գեղեցիկ ու հաղորդական տաղերուն մէջ: Ան բաժնեկից եղաւ անոնց վերելքին ու փառքին, տագնապներուն ու մաքառումներուն, ձգտումներուն եւ յոյսերուն:

Այս ոգիով ու տեսիլքով բանաստեղծ Ժագ Յակոբեան կենսագործեց իր առաքելութիւնը ամբողջական յանձնառութեամբ մը: Իր մահով մեր արդի գրականութիւնը կը կորսնցնէ իր ամենէն տաղանդաւոր բանաստեղծներէն մէկը, որ մեր Մեսրոպաշունչ Մեծաքանչովը ճոխացուց մեր գրականութիւնը: Իր ստեղծագործ հանճարին փայլուն արկայծումներով անգնահատելի նպաստ մը բերաւ մեր մշակոյթի պահպանման եւ հարստացման:

Օրհնեալ ըլլայ մեր պատուական եւ սիրելի բանաստեղծ Ժագ Յակոբեանի յիշատակը: ☐



Ժագ Յակոբեան

ARMENIAN MISSIONARY



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Founded 1918

Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւն

31 WEST CENTURY ROAD ■ PARAMUS, NJ 07652
PHONE: 201.265.2607/2608 ■ FAX: 201.265.6015 ■ E-MAIL: info@amaa.org

October 30, 2016

Honorable Jacques S. Hagopian
c/o Mashdots College
PO Box 250063
Glendale, CA 91225

Dear Mr. Hagopian,

On behalf of the Armenian Missionary Association of America I come to join a host of Armenian organizations to salute the joyous occasion of your 100th jubilee being collectively celebrated in Glendale, California on October 30th, 2016.

We come to bow to a century old legacy turned life of loyal service to God Almighty and the nation. We hail your invaluable contributions to Armenian culture and literature, education, theology, Christian education and love of God.

Your prolific harvest of 35 books, numerous scholarly articles, lectures, Sunday school classes and interaction with generations of youth speak volumes about the treasures you have provided to our masses yearning to learn about our history, poetry, literature, love of our Savior Jesus Christ and our homeland, Armenia.

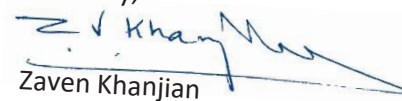
We thank God for the zealous spirit of dissemination of passionate love of the fountain of all goodness, the miracles of life, a blessed identity and faithfulness to the Lord.

We salute Mashdots College for a worthy honor and join all to congratulate you for the Honorary Doctor of Human Letters Degree bestowed upon you on this occasion.

As we thank the Lord our God for the gift that He has blessed us with in the person that you are, we wish you all the good that the Creator can provide in health, happiness and bountiful energy.

With Christian love, admiration and respect,

Sincerely,


Zaven Khanjian

Executive Director/CEO

Enclosure

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations..." Matt. 24:14
"Այս արքայութեան աւետարանը պիտի քարոզուի ամբողջ երկրագունդին մէջ իբր վկայութիւն բոլոր ազգերուն..." Մատթ. 24:14

Ասատուր եւ Ենովա Պետեանները Հալէպի Հայ Աւետարանական Նահատակաց Եկեղեցիի գաւակներ Էին: 2019ը Տիկ. Ենովա Աթօարեան Պետեանի ծննդեան 100ամեակն Է (Ծ. Մարտ 19, 1919): Այս խօսքը արտասանուած Է Տիկին Ենովա Պետեանին տրուած յարգանքի երեկոյան մը ընթացքին, Սեպտեմբեր 9, 1988ին, իր ‘Գոյապայքար’ հատորի հրատարակման առիթով:

"ԳՈՅԱՊԱՅՔԱՐ"ի Հերոսուհին

Չաւէն Խանճեան

Մայրենի լեզուի սերտողութեան տարիներուս շարքը կ’երկարի մանկապարտէզէն մինչեւ նախակրթարան, որմէ ետք յաճախած ըլլալով Հալէպի ALEPPO COLLEGE կրթական հաստատութիւնը մայրենիի ուսուցման հարցը դարձաւ անհատական հետաքրքրութեան գոհացում եւ մեր հարուստ եւ ծաւալուն գրականութեան հանդէպ հարազատ ծարաւի յագեցում: Հետաքրքրական է սակայն որ հակառակ յիշողութեանս վրայ ունեցած յարաբերական վստահութեանս, այդ շրջանի մայրենի լեզուի ուսուցչական կազմի հոյլէն, բացի տնօրէն Մատթէոս Տէր Մատթէոսեանէն, յիշողութեանս պաստառին վրայ կը տողանցէ միայն մէկ անուն: Տիկին Ենովա Պետեան: Ո՛չ, յաճախած վարժարանիս ուսուցչական կազմին երբէք մաս չէ կազմած ան, որոնց անանուն շուքերն իսկ այսօր չեն պատկերանար տարիներու մշուշին ետին կանգնող յիշատակներուս մէջ: Ցցուն է սակայն ներկայութիւնը իսկական ուսուցչուհիի մը, որուն անմիջական հարեւանին զաւակը ըլլալու բաղդաւորութեան կողքին, ինծի վիճակուած էր ըլլալ մանկութեան մտերիմ ընկերն ու դասընկերը եւ նախակրթարանի ամբողջ շրջանին դասարանի առաջնութեան մրցակիցն ու բաժնեկիցը Պետեաններու անդրանիկ զաւկին՝ Մարիին:

Այսօր, երբ մի քանի տասնամեակներու փոթորկոտ, ոստոստուն, փորձառութեամբ հարուստ տարիներու հեռադիտակէն կը դիտեմ, 50ական եւ 60ական թուականներու Հալէպը, անոր գեղարուեստական, մշակութային, գրական եւ ուսումնական ամէնօրեայ կեանքին մէջ յաղթահասակ կադնիի մը նման կը կանգնի Ենովա Պետեանը: Ան իր շուքը կ’երկարէ, ոչ միայն իր Կիւլպէնկեանի եւ Հայկազեանի աշակերտներու մտքերուն ու հոգիներուն վրայ, այլ ամբողջ մշակութասէր գաղութի մը մտքի հորիզոններուն վրայ, որոնց հայրենիքի սէրը, հայ լեզուի հանդէպ ունեցած պաշտամունքը, հայրենական տունէ բերուած բարքերու անխաթար պահպանումը, հայ կնոջ պահպանողական կայանաւորումներէ ազատագրուած ըլլալու անհրաժեշտութիւնը եւ վերջապէս գիտութեան, յոյսի եւ զարգացումի հանդէպ ծարաւ մը ստեղծելու տենդը, այ՛ն, այս բոլորը ժողովուրդի զանազան խաւերուն մատուցած ըլլալու գոհունակութեամբ կրնայ բարձրանալ Տիկ. Ենովան եւ անկասկած անկուշտ ժպիտով մը յագեճալ, ուրիշներ ալ բարձրացուցած ըլլալու կատարեալ գիտակցութեամբ:

Տակաւին այսօր իսկ սովորական չդարձած անգուզական երեւոյթով մը, այդ թուականներու Հալէպահայութեան կեանքի երկնակամարին վրայ փայլող հագուազիւտ կիներէն էր Տիկին Ենովան, որ դեռատի գաւակներու խնամքին գիտակից մայր մը ըլալու կողքին, տանտիկնոջ մը վայել պարտականութիւններէն անդին, չես գիտեր ինչպէս կը ճարէր ժամանակը, գործօն,

օգտաշատ եւ դեկավարի իր մասնակցութիւնը բերելու Հ.Բ.Ը.Միութեան Տիկնանց եւ Հ. Ե. Ընկերակցութեան Մշակութային յանձնախումբերու վարչական կազմերուն: Տակաւին՝ իր շինիչ բանախօսութիւններով, Պարոն Ասատուրին հետ վարած համով հոտով վիճաբանութիւններով եւ անքակտելի շարքով մը երկարող գրական, ընկերային եւ մանկավարժական դասախօսութիւններով, լուսարձակի տակ էր Տիկին Ենովան, միշտ պահելով զարգացաղ կնոջ մը վայել արժանապատուութիւն, պարգութիւն ու համեստութիւն:

Ու տակաւին անարատ հայրենասիրութիւն ծորող այս հայուհին թրծած է մեր հոգիները հայրենիքի անմար սիրով, զոր կապուած է հողին եւ հողին հետ շաղախուած արիւնաթայթախ մեր պատմութեան: Ըմպած ըլլալով հայրենադարձութեան տարիներու Սփիւռքահայ փոթորկոտ կեանքի մրուրը, Տիկ. Ենովայի արդէն իսկ ըմբռնած հայրենասիրութիւնը անգամ մը եւս ամբօրէն խարսխուած էր հայրենի հողին մէջ, ուր արմատ գտած են մեր պատմութեան ու մշակոյթի բոլոր տիտանները, անկախ հողին վրայ ծածանող դրօշներու գոյնին: Եւ հակառակ այն իրողութեան որ պատանի հոգւոյս մէջ գոյներու զանազանութիւնը շեշտող յեղափոխական եռացող արիւնը կարծեցեալ հակադրումի մը կը մղէր գիս, Տիկին Ենովան չէ զլացած պատանեկան անկեղծ եւ մաքուր հայրենասիրութիւնս շոյել յաճախակիօրէն ոչ միայն ընկերանալով ինծի, այլ նաեւ առաջնորդելով գիս ‘կարկուտ տեղացնելու Խանասորայ դաշտումը:‘

Պանդխտութեան ցուպի փոխարէն օղանաւի տոմսակը ձեռքերնիս տարիներ շարունակ շրջելէ ետք արաբական անապատները, առանց երբեւիցէ հաղորդակցութեան կապը կտրած ըլլաւու Ասատուր եւ Ենովա Պետեաններէ եւ մանաւանդ անոնց զաւակներէն, բաղդը թէ դժբաղդութիւնը – չեմ գիտեր – մեզ մեկտեղեց Խաղաղականի այս ափերուն: Այսօր՝ աստղաժլատ այս երեկոյան կու գանք միասնաբար յարգանք մատուցանելու Պետեաններու երկարամեայ արժանաւոր վաստակին եւ Տիկին Ենովային հրապարակած գրական եւ գեղարուեստական փորձերու անդրանիկ հաւաքածոյին «Գոյապայքար» խորագրով:

Ամերիկեան բացայայտումի հասկացողութեան համաձայն, կը համարձակիմ յայտարարել թէ գաղտնիք չէ որ դաժան զուգադիպութեամբ մը գրքի հրապարակումին հետ միասին այսօր տարիէ մը աւելի է որ Տիկին Ենովան անձամբ սուր գոյապայքարի մը մէջ է անողոք հիւանդութեան մը հետ, որուն



Ենովա Աթօարեան Պետեան

հետ կարծես ժամադրուած ըլլար Միացեալ Նահանգներ այցելութեան մը ժամանումի սեմին, 1987ի ամռան: Գոյապայքար մը, զոր ան մինչեւ հիմա պողպատեայ կամքով եւ ընտանիքի գերբնական եւ անանձնական գեր զոհողութեամբ կարողացաւ յաղթահարել, բարի առիթը ընծայելով որ այս երեկոյ բոլորս հաւաքուինք այստեղ զինք վայելելու եւ պատուելու:

«Գոյապայքար»ի պատմուածքներու հատորին գրախօսականը չախտի ընեմ հոս: Պիտի փափաքիմ որ մինչեւ հիմա իր անմիջական շրջապատէն հեռու եղած ըլլալուն պատճառաւ գրքին զլացուած արձագանքը տակաւին լսենք հայահոծ այս գաղութին մէջ ալ գրող, գրասէր, եւ գրական քննադատ բարեկամներու գրչով: Կուգեմ սակայն մի քանի տողերու մէջ խտացնել իմ անձնական տպաւորութիւններս «Գոյապայքար»ի մասին:

Գեղարուեստական այս գործի 14 պատմուածքներու ատաղճը, կեանքն է յետ եղեռնեան գաղթական հայ ժողովուրդի զաւակներուն, հեղինակին անհատական փորձառութեան եւ յուշերու ընդմէջէն: Հեղինակին տողանցքն է ան, հայրենական տունը ձգած, տունէն բռնազաղթի ենթարկուած հայու բեկորներու մէջ, որոնք Տէր Զօրի անապատներու կիզիչ տօթէն մինչեւ Յորդանանեան սահմանամերձ Հոլանի անապատի ոջիկներու անձրեւները, ամէն կողմ մահ հնձեցին: Հեղինակին տողանցն է, այն օրերուն տուն դարձած Ազեզ գիւղին ուր հաւաքուեցան Քիլիսի հայութեան մնացորդացը: Տողանց՝ ‘մանկութիւն չունեցող’ մանուկներու ամէնօրեայ կեանքին մէջ, լեցուն ‘ընտելացած լուերով’, անկոշիկ ոտքերով, ցեխոտ փողոցներով, ինքնաշարժի անիւի քաուչուկէն շինուած ռետինով եւ ուսման անյազ ծարաւով: Տողանց՝ ծնողներու ներածած հայկական աւանդութիւններու, բարքերու, սովորութիւններու, ասացուածքներու, ձեռային աշխատանքներու եւ հայկական խոհարուեստի ուղիներով: Եւ վերջապէս, տողանց՝ նոր միջավայրերու մէջ ստեղծուած հոգեկան խռովքներու, ալեկոծումի, ապրումներու, երագներու եւ պայքարի աշխարհներով:

‘Գոյապայքար’ը մեր պատմութեան մէկ էջին պահուած կամ կորսուած նկարներու եւ պատկերներու փրկարար փոխարինումն է իր ամէնափոքր, յստակ, ընդհանրապէս տխուր, բայց միշտ իրական մանրամասնութիւններով:

‘Գոյապայքար’ը հայելին է անհայրենիք ապրող հայու կեանքէն պոկուած մի քանի էջերու, ուր կ’արձագանքէ մարդու եւ հայու հոգեկան ալեկոծումները հեզասահ ոճով, հետաքրքրականօրէն եւ անձանձրոյթ:

‘Գոյապայքար’ը սկիզբ եւ վերջ չունի ոչ հեղինակին համար եւ ոչ ալ հայուն: ‘Գոյապայքար’ի գողտրիկ էջերէն փունջ մը կ’ուգեմ հրամցնել ձեզի:

Մինչ այդ, թոյլ տուէք բանաստեղծին գրչով կրկնել ‘հայոց կանայք’ի պատուական ներկայացուցիչին՝

Օճախ էք վառել

Մանուկ էք պահել

Պահել էք լեզու եւ պատիւ եւ կեանք

Բայց դեռ քիչ ենք, քիչ ենք մենք ձեզի փայփայել

Եւ միշտ պարտք ենք ու ձեր պարտքը մենք կտանք:

Վերջապէս՝ սիրելի բարկամներ, եկէք միասնաբար պատիւ ընենք վսեմաշուք կնոջ, մօր, ուսուցչուհի, դաստիարակ

եւ գրող հայուհիին, եկէք պատիւ ընենք Տիկին Ենովա Պետեանին:

Վերոյիշեալ յարգանքի երեկոյէն մօտ տասը շաբաթ ետք ցուրտ հողին յանձնեցինք աննման Տիկին Ենովան: Այս հրաժեշտի տողերը սրտի խօսք են արտասանուած Նոյեմբեր 23, 1988ին:

Սիրելի Տիկին Ենովա,

Առանձնութեանս մէջ ամփոփուած հոգիս, ամէն անգամ որ անողոք իրականութեան առջեւ կեցած համարձակութիւնը ունենար մտածելու այս պահուն մասին, հայելիին մէջէն շեշտուած եւ ուժգին պատասխանը կը հնչէր «Տէր՝ այս բաժակը անցուր ինձմէ»:

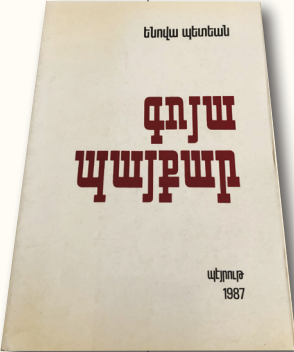
Եւ սակայն «մեր խորհուրդները, Իր խորհուրդները չըլլալով», ահաւասիկ կեանքի դաժան իրականութիւնը ձմրուրս խմելու պարտադրութեամբ այսօր, սիրելիներու, բարեկամներու, աշակերտներու եւ անշուշտ անմիջական ընտանիքի այս փաղանքը հաւաքուած է այս Նոյեմբերեան բարի արեւին տակ, այս միջօրէին, սիրոյ եւ յարգանքի իր տուրքը մատուցանելու, թերեւս հրաժեշտի քազել մը երգելու քեզի: Հակառակ կեանքի հանդէպ ունեցած անհատնում սիրոյդ, բնութեան ծոցին մէջ ծագող արեւն եւ ծաղկող ծաղիկն գրկաբաց պարուրող էութեանդ, կեանքէն ամբարած ջերմութեանդ անվերջ ցոլացումիդ, իր շրջապատը յոյս եւ յոյս սփռող անանձնական սիրոյդ եւ վերջապէս հակառակ բնականին, պարզին, եւ բարիին հետ ունեցած սիրոյ եւ խաղաղութեան դաշինքիդ, քեզի վիճակուեցաւ վայելելու կեանքի անողոք հարուածի մը պարտադրած գոյապայքարի նոր հանգրուան մը զոր այս անգամ կու գար նոյն ինքն քու պաշտած բնութեանդ դաւադիր ծոցէն:

Հրաժեշտի՞ քազել ըսի քիչ առաջ: Բայց ինչպե՛ս կարելի է բաժնուիլ քեզմէ երբ մենք բոլորս քու մայրական, ուսուցչական, հայրենասիրական, դաստիարակչական եւ մարդկայնական անդաստաններու վրայ ցանած, մշակած եւ գուրգուրացած բուրումնաւետ եւ զունագեղ ծաղիկներէն յոյսի եւ յոյսի նշխարի մը ունինք մեր էութեան մէջ: Յիշատակներու չխամրող եւ ժամանակի հասունութեան հետ անուշցող կնիք մը՝ դրոշմուած մեր հոգիներուն վրայ, զոր երբէ՛ք, երբէ՛ք հրաժեշտ չճանչնար:

Սիրելի Տիկին Ենովա,

Ահա երբ մենք քիչ ետք կը պատրաստուինք հեռանալ քեզմէ, ձգելով քեզ ‘Գոյապայքար’ի առաջին էջերու վրայ իսկ քու երկնած եւ երգած բարի առանձնութեանդ մէջ: «Առանձնութիւնը երբեմն աստուածային ներդաշնակութեամբ նուազ մըն է ինծի համար, խոր տրտում նուազ մը որ կուգայ հեռո՛ւ, հեռո՛ւ, աշխարհէ մը: Այդ աշխարհին մէջ մարդիք իրարու ‘բարի յոյս’ եւ ‘բարի գիշեր’ չեն մաղթեր, որովհետեւ հոն բարի են արդէն բոլոր օրերը եւ մղձաւանջ չունին բոլոր գիշերները»։ Այդ բարի աշխարհին խաղաղ առանձնութեան մէջ թողելով հանդերձ քեզ, մենք առանձին չենք վերադառնար այսօր: Մենք առյաւետ մեզ հետ կը տանինք քեզ՝, ‘Գոյապայքար’ի հերոսուհին, որու պայքարելու գերբնական ուժն ու ոգին վահան ըրած, եւ դիմադրական պողպատեայ կամքն որպէս գրահ, այ՛ս, միւս աշխարհին մէջ բարիի եւ սիրոյ յաղթանակին համար պայքարը շարունակելու:

Խաղաղութիւն հայու ազնիւ եւ պայքարած անիւններուդ: ✠



ԱՏԱՆԱՅԻ ԵՂԵՌՆԸ

«ՇԷՀԻՏԼԵՐԻՆ ԹԷԶԲԵԱՐ ԲԻԹԱՊԸ»Ն

Դոկտ. Երուանդ Յ. Զատունի

Օսմանեան Կայսրութեան 19-րդ դարու վերջին տասնամեակը՝ հայոց համար կը փակուէր Համիտեան աննախընթաց կոտորածներով: Իր պապենական հայրենի հողերուն վրայ հազարամեակներով ապրող Հայութեան առաջադրած պահանջ-հայցը տեղի եւ միջազգային ատեաններուն՝ արդար ու բարեկարգեալ կեանք մը ապրելու, կը ստանար Համիտի արինախում պատասխանը:

Յաջորդ տասնամեակը կ'անցներ կայսրութիւնը բարեկարգելու միջազգային նոր պահանջներով, նոր ակնկալութիւններով ու նոր յուսախաբութիւններով, մինչեւ 1908 թ., երբ Համիտ, ակամայ, զենքի սպառնալիքի տակ կը համակերպի վերահաստատել իր իսկ հռչակած 23 Դեկտեմբերի, 1876 թ. Սահմանադրութիւնը: Ամէն ինչ այնքա՛ն վարդազոյն էր...: Երիտասարդ Թուրքերը իջեր էին ասպարէզ. «Ազատութեան, Հաւասարութեան եւ Եղբայրութեան» փողը կը հնչէր ամէնուրեք: Մտածեցին՝ պիտի համագործակցիլ եւ կայսրութեան բոլոր ժողովուրդներուն համար ճշդէլ համահաւասար արդարութեան գետնի վրայ ապրելու իրաւունք:

Երազ մըն էր որ կը հետապնդուէր, երբ թուրք տարբեր շրջանակներ, յատկապէս Սուլթանական իշխանութեան կառչածներ, պատեհ առիթը պիտի փնտռէին՝ ցոյց տալու իրենց իրաւ դիմագիծը: 1908 թ. հռչակուած Սահմանադրութենէն դժգոհ տարբեր, ոմանք նստած Ատանայի Նահանգային Խորհուրդին մէջ, կը մեղադրեն եւ՛ հայերը, որ իրենք մասնակից էին Սուլթանական իշխանութեան տապալումին, եւ հետամուտ՝ Կիլիկիոյ մէջ անկախ թագաւորութիւն մը հռչակելու:

Մեղադրանքը պատրաստ էր: 31 Մարտի, 1909 թ., Ատանայի Նահանգային Խորհուրդը կորոշէ հաշուեյարդարի ենթարկել «դաւաճան» հայերը: Կը յղուին գաղտնի հրահանգներ, բանտերէն ազատ կարձակուին ոճրագործ խուժաններ, որոնք Ապրիլի 1-4 սանձարձակ կոտորածներ կը գործադրեն նահանգին ու շրջակայ ավաններուն ու գիւղերուն մէջ: Ժամանակաւոր դադարէ մը ետք, Ապրիլի 12-14 կը կրկնուին կոտորած-

ները, զոհերուն թիւը հաս-ցընելով 30,000-ի (Ատանայի կոտորածներուն համար տես՝ Վեր. Համբարձում Յ. Աշճեան, Ատանայի Եղեռնը Եւ Գոնիայէ Յուշեր, Նիւ Եորք, 1950: Յակոբ Յ. Թերզեան, Կիլիկիոյ Աղէտը, Պէյրութ, 1964: Կիլիկիոյ Աղէտը – 1909, տես՝ Բիւզանդ Եղիայեան (խմբ.) «Ատանայի Հայոց Պատմութիւն», Անթիլիաս, 1970, էջ 211-310: Hagop Babigian, The Adana Massacres – An Eyewitness Account, transl. by Dr. A.B. Gureghian, Beirut, 2018):

Ատանայի կոտորածները յատկապէս աղէտալի հետեւանքներ ունեցան Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին համար: 1908 թ. որոշուած էր Կիլիկիոյ Աւետարանական [Եկեղեցիներու] Միութեան տարեկան համաժողովը ունենալ Մարաշի մէջ՝ 1909 թ. Յունիսի վերջերը: Սակայն, ինչ-ինչ պատճառներով, համաժողովի վայրը կը տեղափոխուի Ատանա, ժամանակ ճշդելով Ապրիլի կէտերը:

Ճշդուած վայրին ու ժամանակին պատասխանելով՝ համաժողովի պատուիրակները կը փութան Ատանա..., ու տեղի կ'ունենայ անսպասելին: Այնթապէն ու Մարաշէն ճամբայ ելած պատուիրակները զիրար կը գտնեն Օսմանիյէ, ու կ'օթեւանին տեղւոյն Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցիին մէջ: Խաղաղ գիշերը կը լուսնայ կրակներու մէջ: Ոճրագործ ամբոխը առաւօտ կ'անուի կը հրդեհէ եկեղեցին, ու դուրս փախչողները կը սպաննէ տեղւոյն վրայ: Հոս, տասնմէկ նահատակներու մէջ են Այնթապի Կեդրոնական Թուրքիոյ Գոլէճի Փրոֆ. Սարգիս Լեւոնեան, Վեր. Նազարէթ Շեղիսեան (Մարաշ), Յակոբ աղա Նիւսիսէճեան (Մարաշ):

Միսի մօտ, Սայ Կէչիտ ըստած զառիթափին վրայ, «անասանելի բարբարոսութեամբ» կը նահատակուին Հաճընէն ճամբայ ելած պատուիրակները, թիւով տասնմէկ, որոնց կընկերակցէին իգական սեռի երեք հոգեւոր գործիչներ:



Ատանա չհասած, Օսմանիյէի եւ Համիտիյէի մէջտեղ, Չայրըր Աղզը անուն վայրին մէջ, կառքէն վար կ'առնուին համաժողովին փութացող հինգ պատուիրակներ, որոնց մէջ Վեր. Յակոբ Գունտազճեան (Հասանալէյի) եւ Վեր. Ստեփան Յովհաննէսեան (Հարունիյէ), ու կը սպաննուին:

Համիտիյէի մէջ տեղւոյն վրայ կը սպաննուի համայնքին քարոզիչը՝ Պատ. Մարգար Գալուստեան, իսկ Ատանայի մէջ՝ Պատ. Յովակիմ Գայաեան, Ալպուսթանի Հայ Աւետ. Եկեղեցիի հովիւը: Ատանայի մէջ նաեւ կը նահատակուին երկու երիտասարդ միսիոնարներ՝ Վեր. Տանիէլ Մայնըր Բաճըրս եւ Վեր. Հէնրի Մավրըր:

Չհաշուած վերոնշեալ երկու երիտասարդ միսիոնարները, Ատանայի կոտորածներուն Կիլիկիոյ Աւետ. [Եկեղեցիներու] «Միութիւնը կը կորսնցնէր մէկ փրոֆէսոր, 9 ձեռնադրեալ հովիւներ, 10 արտօնեալ քարոզիչներ, 9 երեսփոխան՝ որոնց մեծ մասը եռանդուն հոգեւոր գործիչներ եւ 4 տիկիններ, նոյնպէս հոգեւոր գործիչներ իգական սեռին մէջ: Ընդամենը 37 հոգեւոր գործիչներ երկու սեռէ» (Վեր. Եղիա Ս. Քասունի, Լուսաշաւիղ, Պէյրութ 1947, էջ 263-265):

Մէջբերուած վերջին տողերէն ետք, Վեր. Ե.Ս. Քասունի կը գրէ. «Ասոնց [(Միութեան նահատակներուն)] ամենամեծ մասին կենսագրութիւնները, պատկերներով միասին, կարելի է տեսնել 1913-ին հրատարակուած [հայաստա թրքերէն] «Շէհիտլերին Թէզքեար Քիթապը» հատորին մէջ»: Տողերուն հեղինակը ապա կ'աւելցնէ, թէ՛ զիրքին բովանդակութիւնը նախապէս լոյս տեսած է «Բահնիւմա» շաբաթաթերթի (Կ. Պոլիս) 1912 եւ 1913 համարներուն մէջ:

Ուրեմս, 1913 թ., Կ. Պոլսոյ Քէշիշեան տպարանէն լոյս կը տեսնէ Շէհիտլերին Թէզքեար Քիթապը (Նահատակներուն Յուշամատեանը), (206 էջ, 14x21 սմ.), խմբագրութեամբ Եղիա Ս. Պէհսլինեանի (Վեր. Եղիա Ս. Քասունի):

Հատորին նշանաբանն է՝ «Նահատակներուն արիւնը Եկեղեցիին սերմն է»:

«Նահատակներուն Յիշամատեանը»-ին Ներածութիւնը ստորագրած է Եղիա Ս. Պէհսլինեան, իսկ Յառաջաբանը՝ Այնթապի Կեդրոնական Թուրքիոյ Գոլէճի մեծանուն դասախօս Փրոֆ. Յ. Ալէքսան Պեզճեան: Հատորը կամփոփէ քսանութ նահատակներու կենսագրութիւններ, ներառեալ՝ երկու միսիոնարներուն: Կենսագրութիւնները տարբեր ծաւալի են, իրենց դիմանկարներով, բացի չորսէն: Նահատակ կանանց կենսագրութիւնները չկան: Իրաքանչիւր կենսագրութիւն ստորագրուած է տարբեր անձի մը կողմէ. հետաքրքրական է տեսնել որ այնտեղ իգական սեռի անուններ կան, ոմանք, ազգանուններէն դատած, նահատակներու հարազատներ:

Հատորը կը փակուի «Շէհիտլերին Զիքրինէ» (Նահատակներու Յիշատակին) բանաստեղծութեամբ,

հեղինակ՝ W.W. How, թարգմանիչ՝ Վեր. Համբարձում Յ. Աշճեան):

Համառօտ այս ծանօթագրութիւնը աւարտելէ առաջ նշենք որ հակառակ ներկայացուած հատորի մասին մեր տեղեկութեան, հնարաւոր չէր եղած զայն ձեռքի տակ ունենալ. միայն վերջերս, Մաշտոցի անուան Ձեռագիրներու Մատենադարանի գիտաշխատող, բանասէր, մատենագէտ Միհրան Մինասեանի միջոցով իմացանք որ Մատենադարանը ունի հատորը: Մեր խնդրանքին ընդառաջելով, յատուկ արտօնութեամբ Տիար Մ. Մինասեան բարի եղաւ հատորին լուսապատճէն օրինակը հասցնել մեզի, որուն համար մեր յատուկ շնորհակալութիւնները Մատենադարանի տնօրէնութեան եւ մեր բարեկամ Մ. Մինասեանին:

Եւ աւարտելու համար. կը հաւատանք որ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի պատմութեան այս կարեւոր էջերէն մէկը իր հարազատ ժողովուրդին հասցնելու եւ անոր նահատակներուն յիշատակը արդարօրէն յարգելու համար իրապէս արժէ Շէհիտլերին Թէզքեար Քիթապըն հայերէնի թարգմանել:

Ո՛վ կը նախաձեռնէ: □

ՇԷՀԻՏԼԵՐԻՆ ԹԷԶԲԵԱՐ ԲԻԹԱՊԸ

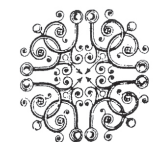
Կիլիկիա Ինճիկի Խթթինասընա մենտալ՝ շեհիս
Միսիոներ, Զուպան, Վաղզ վե Մուրախ-
խասպար զիֆրիկնէ օլարազ,

Մեզիս Խթթինասըն զարար իզդե քերիպ հեյվիշ սիր:



«Շէհիտլերին գանը Բիլիսանըն
թօխումու սըր:»

«Վէ Բապասան զօրգանլար...
իչին Սենըն հուզուրնա թէզքեար
Քիթապը հազրթը:» (Մաղ. Յ. 16):



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ՔԷՇԻՇԵԱՆ ՄԱԹՊԱՍՍԸ

1913

Vartouhy "Rosie" Artinian

Vartouhy "Rosie" Artinian, resident of Marlboro, NJ and formerly of Oradell, NJ, passed away peacefully on September 12, 2019 at the age of 73.



Vartouhy worked for many years as a registered nurse. Her most important role in life was being a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

She is survived by her beloved husband Ara Artinian. Cherished mother to Nyree Artinian and Cynthia Govignon and her husband Richard. Adored grandmother to Andre and Mason. Dear sister to Dr. Berg Gueyikian and his wife Karoun and Luther Gueyikian and his wife Ida. Proud aunt to her many nieces and nephews. She will truly be missed by all who knew her.

Funeral services were held on September 17 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ followed by Interment at George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus.

The family requests donations be made to the Sunday School and Youth Group of Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus.

John Devedjian

Just days after celebrating his 85th birthday with family and friends, John Devedjian passed away at home in West Chester, PA on August 30, 2019. He died of cancer.



He was the beloved husband of nearly 59 years of Florence (née Hagopian), brother of Samuel S. Devedjian, father of Deborah and Jacquelyn (Timothy DeMirjian), and adored grandfather of Jenika, Derek, Caprice and Brielle DeMirjian.

John was born in Camden, NJ to Armenian Genocide survivors, Gadar (née Ayjian) and Vahan Devedjian and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. Starting as an apprentice at John C. Meyer & Son, he quickly became foreman, leading a team of typography specialists.

John was happiest serving the Armenian-American community. He chaired the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, directed its annual

Fourth of July Picnic for 44 years, served on its Endowment Committee, led its Christian Youth Fellowship, and spearheaded and co-chaired its 100th Anniversary Gala.

John believed in unifying communities. For many years, he served on the Board of the Armenian Sisters Academy, consisting of two representatives from each of the five Philadelphia Armenian churches.

A problem solver and man of action, he got the job done but let others shine. In 1981, John and his six poker pals co-founded Philadelphia Armenian Nor Daree ("PAND"), bringing together Armenian families for a multi-day New Year celebration; for nearly 40 years, the event has drawn thousands nationwide. He also helped establish and coled the St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Medical Fund for Armenians with onerous healthcare bills.

In honor of the U.S. Bicentennial, John served on the Thank You, America! Committee. A Banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City honored 12 self-made entrepreneur-philanthropists—including eight Armenian Genocide survivors. The Committee announced the donation to the Metropolitan Museum of Art of 21 silk wall tapestries chronicling the founding of America.

An avid sportsman, he was a proud member of the Cam-Phi Athletic Association, supporting Armenian youth in Camden and Philadelphia. For seven decades, his Cam-Phi buddies and their wives have been abiding friends.

His mantra was, "Never complain. Complainers are a dime a dozen. If you have a problem, come to me with suggestions, and we'll get it done."

A man of integrity and laughter, John took active care of others. "He was one of a kind. Whether you were a newcomer or an old friend, you walked into the church and got the Johnnie Dee handshake. You knew you were welcomed and belonged," said Mark Momjian, law partner with Momjian Anderer in Philadelphia.

"Mr. Dee was loved and respected by everyone. He was always taking care of others. He was constant and steadfast. For Mr. Dee, it was a labor of love," said Karen Bogosian, CEO of Visual Sound of Broomall, PA.

Mr. Devedjian's body has been donated to the University of Pennsylvania Abramson Cancer Center. The family asks that donations be sent to the Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church, 100 North Edmonds

Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083, or the Armenian Sisters Academy, 440 Upper Gulph Road, Radnor, PA 19087.

A memorial service was held on November 16 at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA.

Paul Richard Kassabian

Paul Richard Kassabian, beloved husband, father, son, brother and friend, passed away at his home in Sierra Madre, CA on October 21, 2019 after a brief battle with cancer. He was 53 years old.



Paul was stricken from birth with cerebral palsy but overcame his limitations with grace and dignity and was an inspiration to so many. Born and raised in Pasadena, he attended High Point Academy, graduated from St. Francis High School, and was an Eagle Scout. Paul earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Occidental College, and a law degree from UCLA Law School. Specializing in estate planning, Paul practiced law in Southern California for many years, eventually joining LegalZoom in 2008.

In 2005 Paul married his beloved wife Robin, and together they have a son, David (11) and a daughter, Anna (9). Paul also welcomed Robin's daughter, Sophia, as his own. Above all he treasured time with his family and friends. He enjoyed entertaining and travel including cruises, regular trips to the beach, and visits to see his twin brother, John, in Mexico. He enjoyed camping at El Capitan Canyon and trips to visit Robin's extended family in Northern Michigan.

Paul was a lifelong sports fan and most of all he loved baseball. He shared his love of the LA Dodgers with many friends as well as with his son David. Paul and Robin enjoyed attending musical and theatrical events together in the local Southern California area.

Paul was a member of the Pasadena BPOE Lodge and was a Chancellor of Church of Our Saviour in San Gabriel. He also served on Occidental College Alumni Board of Directors as well as on the Board of Bloy House, The Episcopal Theological School of Clairemont. He was a room parent and served on the St. Elizabeth Parish School PTO board. He was also the proud

coach one year of his son's Pasadena Area Little League team, the Timber Rattlers. Paul sang in the choir and taught Sunday School at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Van Nuys, where his wife serves as rector.

He is survived by his wife and children, his stepdaughter Sophia Claire Park, his parents Dr. John and Mary Kassabian, his sister Paulette Geragos (Mark), and his brothers Mark (Kristin) and John (Lilly); as well as aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews and a legion of dear friends.

Paul's life on earth, although it ended too soon, was a blessing to all who whose lives he touched. We will remember his kindness, generosity, loyalty, and wonderful sense of humor and can only hope to follow his example of how to live life. We are comforted to know he is now forever in the company of the Triune God with all the angels and saints.

Jack Hovnan Papazian

Jack Hovnan Papazian, a retired nuclear and mechanical engineer, passed away peacefully in Upper Saddle River, NJ on September 22, 2019. He was 89.

Born in Union City, NJ on April 9, 1930, Jack was the son of Hovnan and Levart Papazian.

In 1952, Jack obtained his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology and in 1969 he received his Master of Science in Industrial and Management Engineering from Columbia University. From 1952 to 1969 he was Senior Project Engineer at Curtiss-Wright Corporation (Woodbridge Division); and from 1970 to 1983, Jack served as Senior Quality Engineer in its Nuclear Division. While at Curtiss-Wright he authored a number of important professional papers. In 1972, Jack was Quality Assurance Project Leader in the Nuclear Department at Foster-Wheeler Corporation.

Jack was a member of the American Society for Quality Control, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Concrete Institute, and Tau Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma, Honorary Engineering Societies. He is listed in "World Who's Who in Commerce and Industry," Twelfth Edition.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Sylvia Ann Mackitar Papazian, his sister-in-law Gail Keyishian, brother-in-law Paul Keyishian, nephew Paul Keyishian Jr., niece Roxanne Lee Keyishian, and cousin,

Dr. Edward Kent. He was predeceased by his parents and brother, Andy Papazian.

Services were held on September 27 at the Old Stone Reformed Church in Upper Saddle River, NJ, with interment following at George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus, NJ.

The family has requested donations be made to the Old Stone Reformed Church or to the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Avedis H. Tootikian

Avedis Hagop Tootikian, a recent resident of the Manoogian Manor of Livonia, MI, made his transition from this world to his eternal home on November 5, 2019. He was 82.



Born in Ekiz-Oluk, Kessab on April 20, 1937, he received his elementary and high school education in the Armenian Evangelical Schools in Kessab and Beirut. He was trained as a mechanic and worked as such for almost fifty years in Beirut, Canada and the United States.

He married Sharon Griffith of Detroit in 1968 and God blessed their union with a son, Jack Tootikian.

After working for Pan American Airways in Beirut, Lebanon from 1958-1965, Avedis moved to Windsor, Canada

in 1965 and two years later to Detroit, MI. He worked for Ford and General Motors automotive companies for almost 40 years in Detroit, MI, Los Angeles, CA and Pittsburgh, PA.

He was a member of the Armenian Evangelical churches in Ekiz-Oluk, Detroit and Los Angeles. In Pittsburgh, where there was no Armenian Evangelical church, he attended the local Congregational and Presbyterian Churches.

Avedis was an outgoing, dynamic, friendly, courageous and helpful person; he loved his compatriots and helped them whenever there was a need. He was a devoted patriot who loved his adopted country, the U.S.A., and his native country Armenia where he visited several times. He was a proud Kessabtsi and spent many summers in his idyllic hometown Ekiz-Oluk.

Avedis is survived by his son, Jack (Dana), his three brothers, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. (Rosette), Haig (Anahis), and Papken Tootikian, three nieces Anahid (Mark) Zartarian, Alice Tootikian Riley, Jacqueline (Michael) Voskian, and two nephews Haig Jr. (Taryn) Tootikian, Armen (Elena) Tootikian and their respective families.

His memorial service was held at the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit on December 7. Memorial gifts are requested to either the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit or the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Jesus said... "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends.

Hourig Abdulian
Los Angeles, CA

* Harrison Poindexter
Chestnut Hill, MA

* Bercuhi Sirpuhi Agopyan
Westlake Village, CA

* Sirone (Silva) Ohanian

* Maida Artinian
Rochester, NY

* Richard Segel
Louisville, CO

* Stella Anne Chaderjian
Fresno, CA

* Charles Shagoury
Winchester, PA

* Eliz Dohanian
Watertown, MA

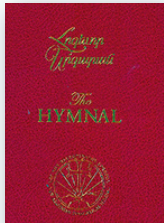
* Alice Yaldezian
Northridge, CA

* Memorials designated for AMAA

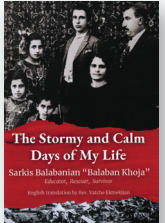
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Armenian English Diglot New Testament
Western Armenian and Today's English version.
Item # 508 - Price \$15.00




The Hymnal (*Hokevor Yerkaran*)
Հոգեւոր Երգարան
Bilingual Hymns
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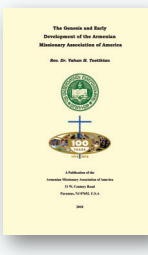
The Stormy and Calm Days of my Life
Educator, Rescuer, Survivor.
Sarkis Balabanian (Balaban Khoja) Translated by Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian
Item # 406 - Price: \$20.00
All Proceeds go to AMAA Balabanian Ed. Fund



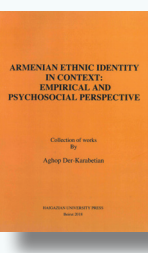
A Century of Armenian Protestantism 1846-1946
(Second Printing)
The author recounts the history of the Armenian Evangelical movement from its beginning to 1946.
By Leon Arpee
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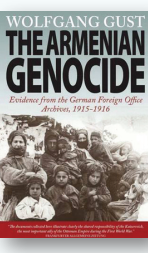
A History of Armenian Christianity (Second Printing)
A fairly objective overview of the Christian pilgrimage of the Armenian people throughout the centuries.
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The Genesis and Early Development of the Armenian Missionary Association of America
History of the founding of the AMAA.
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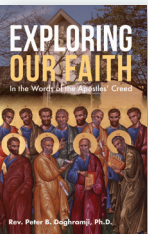
Armenian Ethnic Identity in Context: Empirical and Psychosocial Perspective
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Price: \$20.00
All proceeds will go to Haigazian University.



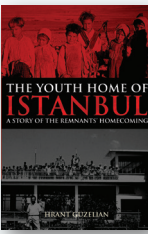
The Armenian Genocide
Evidence from the German Foreign Office Archives, 1915-1916.
Compiled and edited by Wolfgang Gust
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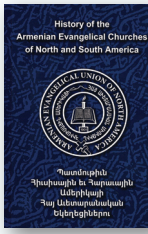
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The Youth Home of Istanbul: A Story of the Remnants' Homecoming.
By Hrant Guzelian
Item # 357- Price: \$20.00



History of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of North and South America
History of AEUNA churches, their founders, locations, pastors, leaders, and programs.
Published by AEUNA
Item # 401CO - Price: \$10.00

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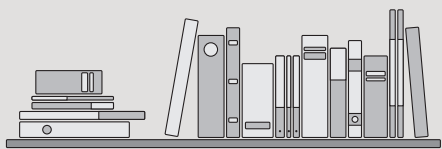
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